



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bern, June 12, 1937

No. 5000

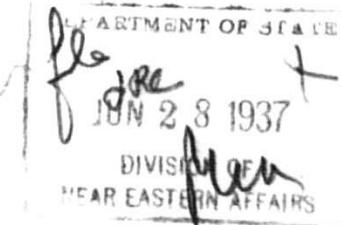
Subject: Parliamentary discussion of Swiss
de jure recognition of Italian con-
quest of Ethiopia.



Hoff
JUN 23 1937
F62

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:



Referring to my telegram No. 97 of December 24, 1936, regarding the action of the Swiss Federal Council on December 23 in recognizing, de jure, Italian sovereignty in Ethiopia, and to my despatch No. 4796 of February 4, 1937, quoting comments on the subject by Mr. Motta, I have the honor to report that the latter has again commented on the Swiss Government's position in this matter in a reply to socialist criticism of the Federal Council's action.

During a discussion on June 8 in the upper legislative chamber (Conseil des Etats) of the Political

Department's

865D.01/291

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JUN 2 1937

Department's annual report for 1936, a socialist member (Wenk, from Basel) proposed that the Federal Assembly record that "it regrets the de jure recognition of the sovereignty of Italy over Ethiopia".

Opposing this proposal, Mr. Motta stated that its acceptance would risk disturbing the "excellent relations between Switzerland and Italy"; and that, contrary to Mr. Wenk's belief, de jure recognition did not at all imply a moral judgment with respect to the conditions under which the conquest took place. Switzerland, he said:

"had no interest in making a subtle and nonexistent distinction between the de jure recognition and recognition de facto. Nobody could imagine today how the facts could be changed without a new war and why, in these circumstances, should there be any equivocation or raising of unnecessary difficulties?"

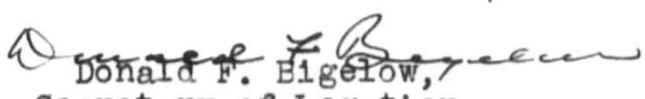
Continuing, Mr. Motta said that the true policy of Switzerland in the League of Nations is to do everything possible to see that Italy does not leave the League and that Germany returns. He claimed that the "gesture" of the Federal Council in recognizing Italian sovereignty de jure on December 23, last, was perhaps one of the factors which might lead the Italian Government to resume its active rôle in Geneva.

Finally, he asked the chamber to reject the socialist proposal. It is a foregone conclusion that such action will be taken in connection with the chamber's formal approval of the Political Department's report.

Respectfully yours,
For the Minister:

File No. 715
DFB/mk

Quintuplicate


Donald F. Bigelow,
Secretary of Legation.

Copy to American Embassy, Rome



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

12780

ROME, June 17, 1937.

No. 432

Subject: Italian Administration and Development of Ethiopia.



865d.01/286

FOR DETERMINATION - USE THIS FORM	
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In U. S. A.	[]
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JUL 2 - 1937



865d.01/286

A/C/C
RECORDING DESK
FILE - WHO

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

JUL 1 1937

for JUL 2 1937

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
of STATE

In continuation of the Embassy's despatch No. 371 of May 20, 1937, regarding the Italian administration and development of Ethiopia, I have the honor to submit below a digest of the available information which has been published here since May 20th with respect to Italian action and plans for the Government of the conquered territory. Copies of reports on Ethiopia by the Military Attaché to the Embassy are transmitted herewith.

Military and Political.

No military or political news of importance has been published recently. The press on May 28th reported that the "April 21st" Black Shirt Division was being rapidly demobilized ...

365D.01/292

FP

demobilized and that, at their request 4,679 Black Shirts, including 58 officers and 121 non-commissioned officers, had already been given employment in Ethiopia.

An official communiqué published on June 10th states that Italian losses in East Africa during the month of May were as follows:

745.84
Troops: killed in "police operations" 8)
died of diseases and accidents 49) 57

workmen: died of diseases and accidents 97

Rumors that the capital of the "Empire" would be transferred from Addis Ababa to another city on account of the unsuitable climate (Embassy's despatch No. 371 of May 20, 1937) were flatly denied in an official communiqué published on June 3rd.

The press under Addis Ababa date line of June 2nd announces that "in the name of the Viceroy of Ethiopia, the Governor of Galla Sidamo has forwarded the brevets conferring the title of Sultan on Abba Duda Abba Gifar and Abba Giobia Abba Duda. This recognition awards the efficacious work carried out by the two Sultans for the affirmation of Italian dominion over their friendly territories. At the same time it signifies the definite abandonment of the traditional system of honors based on Ethiopian titles, for which there is no longer any reason in Moslem territories."

The Abuna Cirillo (Metropolitan of the Ethiopian Coptic Church) who, it will be recalled, was rumored to have been shot for implication in the attempted assassination of Marshal Graziani (Embassy's despatch No. 336 of April 25, 1937), arrived in Rome in the beginning of June for the purpose, as the press stated, "of paying homage

to ...

to the greatest Imperial authorities." From news despatches he appears to have been shown considerable attentions by officials of the Ministry of Italian Africa. On June 13th an official communiqué stated that he had been received by the Duce, "to whom he expressed his admiration at what he had seen in Italy during the past days and his gratitude for the hospitality of the Fascist Government," and on June 15th he was received in audience by the King.

On May 27th the press reprinted, without comment, a news despatch published in the ANGRIFF, Berlin, to the effect that it was rumored in Jerusalem that the Negus' son, who was in Palestine, was seeking conciliation with the Italian authorities and was willing to renounce all claims to the Ethiopian throne and refrain from all political activities, if permitted to return to Ethiopia. The Negus was said to have commanded his son to proceed to London immediately but his orders had been disobeyed.

Industrial and Economic Development.

According to the press, the Vegetable Textile Fibre Company of Ethiopia (Embassy's despatch No. 233 of February 24, 1937), which has been conducting investigations in Ethiopia, has discovered that the "agave sisalana" may be profitably exploited for textile manufacturing purposes and is making arrangements for the production of this plant on a large scale.

During May several new missions were sent to Ethiopia for the purpose of studying the possibilities of developing the country. Among these was a zootechnic mission, which visited Arussi, Western Cercer, Harrar, and Giggiga. In the

Giggiga ..

Giggiga district it selected a zone of about 10,000 hectares suitable for raising sheep. Another mission discovered mica deposits in the Giggiga region, and, according to reports, their exploitation will begin in October. A third mission has reported that it has found large supplies of oil bearing seeds and fruits suitable for the manufacture of comestible oils. After the rainy season a plant for this purpose will be built at Harrar. A fourth mission visited the Harrar and Cercer districts, where it is said to have found the possibilities of growing a very fine grade of coffee to be excellent. A fifth mission, sent by the Italian Cotton Institute, is examining the territory near Addis Ababa with a view to cultivating cotton.

On June 16th the press reported the arrival at Genoa from Massaua of the S.S. SEMIEN with the first shipment of Ethiopian cotton to reach Italy since the Italo-Abyssinian campaign. A commission of French cotton buyers came to Genoa to examine the product with a view to making contracts.

News despatches from Addis Ababa state that large deposits of lignite have been discovered in the Omo valley of the Uollamo region, including a deposit of unusually fine lignite 400 meters wide and a kilometer in length near the village of Ghindo and a second deposit of fine quality about the same size near the village of Agallo.

Labor.

An official communiqué published on June 2nd, states that "the Commissariat for Migration and Internal Colonization ...

Commerce and Agriculture

zation communicates the following figures referring to the movements of workers transferred to the Empire up to May 31st including specialists and chauffeurs: workers transferred, 188,252; workers repatriated, 73,524; workers deceased 1,196; workers present in Italian East Africa, 113,532." Another communiqué states that workers in Italian East Africa have sent over 200 million lire home to their families during May 1937, and almost two billion lire since January 1935. To these amounts must be added sums personally taken back to Italy by repatriated workers.

Finance.

465 N. 515
The press under Addis Ababa date line of June 14th reports that by Viceregal decree of June 13th the Maria Teresa thaler may be changed into Italian lire at branches of the Bank of Italy and of Public Banks at the rate of 13.50 lire.

Bank of Rome.

465 N. 516
A press despatch under Gimma date line reported that a branch of the Bank of Rome was opened at Gimma on May 21st. In this connection it will be recalled that the Bank of Rome on April 23rd opened branches at Gore and Dembi-Dollo (Embassy's despatch No. 336 of April 25, 1937). *Conseil*

Posts and Telegraphs.

The Administration of Posts and Telegraphs of Addis Ababa on June 2nd announced that it had opened to the public new post offices at Addis Ababa, Habama, Ualanchiti, Metahara, Gaggi, and Sciano. It added that during the month offices would also be inaugurated at Brabresit, Debrasina, Oendaba, Riccé, and Ghedo.

Roads.

8/65 d. 154

The Italian Minister for Public Works, Signor Cobolli-Gigli, after an inspection trip of several months in Italian East Africa, returned to Rome on June 1st. On the third he was received by the Duce, to whom he gave a report on the progress of road-building in Ethiopia. According to an official communiqué, the Duce highly praised the work accomplished by the Minister and his assistants. Signor Cobolli-Gigli, in an interview with the press, stated that on May 1st there were 56,550 Italians and 84,000 Ethiopians engaged in road building in the conquered territory. He went on to say that 9,300,000 cubic meters had been excavated, 4,700,000 cubic meters had been filled in, and 446,000 cubic meters of masonry had been constructed. The roads which had been ballasted and gravelled covered an area of 9,700,000 square meters. He added that on June 30th, before the commencement of the heavy rains, 1,000 kilometers of road would be asphalted, 1,300 kilometers ballasted and gravelled, and 1,200 kilometers in a state of advanced progress. The Minister declared this would include an asphalted road from Massaua through Asmara and Decameré up to Amba Alagi and the fork of the road to Gondar, a little beyond Axum; and small roads from Addis Ababa to Addis Alem and from Addis Ababa to Gimma, as well as ballasted roads open to traffic, from Axum to Gondar and from Amba Alagi through Dessié to Addis Ababa. In addition, a ninety-kilometer trail had been constructed beyond Macfud up to Debra Breban to ensure traffic during the rainy season. During the following year, he asserted, roads would be opened to traffic between Assab and Batié, Addis Ababa and Lekemti, beyond Addis Alem, and between

Commerce

Addis Ababa and Gimma, exclusive of the small roads already completed.

Maritime Transportation.

The Ministry for Italian Africa on June 14th issued the following instructions regarding maritime transportation to Italian East Africa:

865 N. 801

"(1) All ships leaving national ports direct for ports in Eritrea and Somalia (except Government ships, those chartered by the State, those belonging to subsidized lines, and those belonging to the Banana Monopoly), must obtain a permit to depart.

(2) All national ships, with the exception of those mentioned above, must obtain permission from the Ministry of Italian Africa to put in at Djibouti;

(3) Shipment of merchandise to all the ports of Italian East Africa may be freely made with the exception of Assab, where embarkation may be made on ships authorized to put in as set forth in No. 1;

(4) A permit from the Ministry of Italian Africa is necessary for the shipment from Italian ports of any kind of merchandise direct to Assab;

(5) It is forbidden, pending new regulations, to ship from Italian ports any kind of merchandise destined to Italian East Africa, via Djibouti, and only as an exception may this be authorized by the Ministry of Italian Africa;

(6) The shipment of explosive materials to all Eritrean ports is generally forbidden from April 20th to August 20th. Eventual exceptions must be authorized by the Ministry of Italian Africa."

Foreign Missionaries.

With reference to the Embassy's confidential telegram No. 274 of June 13th, regarding the Italian Government's decision to allow no foreign missionaries to continue educational work in Ethiopia, a report on my representations regarding the American missionaries concerned is contained in the Embassy's despatch No. 433 of June 17, 1937.

365d.1167

The Italian press under London dateline reported that in reply to a question in the House of Commons on July 14th, Eden stated that he regretted to announce that, following prolonged negotiations with the Italian Government, the latter had informed the British Government that it would allow no foreign missionaries of any religion whatsoever to maintain schools in Ethiopia. Rome had, however, let it be known that if British missionaries desired to devote themselves to humanitarian and not educational work in Ethiopia, it might consider requests to that end. Eden said that in view of this attitude of the Italian Government, the British Government would reserve the right to impose similar restrictions in the Empire.

Italo-British Agreements relating to East Africa.

The Italo-British Agreements on grazing and watering rights of Somali tribes, and on transit traffic to and from Italian East Africa through the ports of Zeila and Berbera, concluded on January 28, 1937 (Embassy's despatch No. 194 of February 4, 1937) were ratified by the Italian Government on April 19, 1937. The texts of the Agreements, published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE of June 15, 1937, are contained in the Embassy's despatch No. 427 of June 16, 1937.

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Recognition of Italian Sovereignty over Ethiopia.

In continuation of my despatch No. 317 of April 14, 1937, regarding recognition of Italian sovereignty over Ethiopia, I have the honor to report the following additional information:

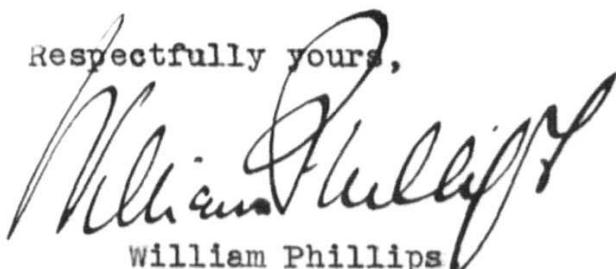
On May 26th the press under Vienna date line announced that "a resolution of the Council of Ministers today declares that with the conquest of Abyssinia by Italy Austrian consular jurisdiction in that territory terminated. Therefore the Council of Ministers has decided that the regulations regarding the jurisdiction over Austrian citizens in Ethiopia shall cease to be in force."

The press under Bern date line of June 10th announced that the Swiss Council of State had approved the de jure recognition of Italian sovereignty over Ethiopia. On June 15th newspapers reported that the Swiss National Council by a vote of 84 to 56 had rejected a motion to censure the Council of State for its de jure recognition.

On June 15th news despatches from Addis Ababa stated that Dr. Frike had assumed charge of the German Consulate General in the Ethiopian capital in place of Dr. Richter, who had been temporarily in charge.

It was also reported that the new French Consul General, M. Louis Lavastre, had arrived in Addis Ababa.

Respectfully yours,



William Phillips

Enclosures:

1. Army Establishment
Military Establishment for Italian East Africa.
2. Mobilization - General
Troop Shipments and Repatriations.

MILITARY ATTACHE
American Embassy
Rome, Italy

ENCLOSURE NO. 1 DESPATCH NO. 432

O-2 Report

DATED June 17, 1937 FROM THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY, ROME, ITALY.

6010

Rec'd MAY 29 1937

Amb. C.....

Action.....

2.....

3.....

ITALY (Combat - Army)

Subject: Army Establishment.

Military Establishment for Italian East Africa.

This report supersedes Italy No. 15,589-6010.

Minister Lessona of the Ministry of Italian Africa made the following remarks before the Senate on May 22, 1937, concerning the military situation in East Africa.

"In answer to a statement made by Senator Bongiovanni that the substitution of a civil government for a military government in Italian East Africa had been too precipitate, Minister Lessona said that he did not share the same opinion. What is meant by military government? He asked. If by having such a government it is construed to mean that military problems outweigh the economic, civil and social problems and that the internal situation is such as to warrant a severe control by the military forces, then I can proclaim to the Senate that Italian East Africa has no need for a military government. A civil government, and especially a Fascist one, does not signify an inactive government, and there can be no difference in the action carried out by troop commanders should the governor of a province be a civilian or a general.

Ethiopia has been proclaimed a pacified country and the remaining instances of raids by native bands cannot be considered rebellions, being due to economic, not political motives, and the inherent instincts of some of the natives. Such raids are of habitual occurrence and were more frequent during the Negus' rule than at the present time. Otherwise everything is peaceful. The benefits of this state of affairs is already being felt by the increasing extent of the cultivation.

To return to a military government, -Lessona stated,- would be a grave political error which would be exploited by that part of the foreign press which seeks to deny the fact that the Empire has been pacified.

This distinction between the military and the civil furthermore ill suits the doctrine of Fascism wherein every citizen is a soldier, especially as regards the Administration in which all officials are also officers of the armed forces. The point of importance therefor is to have intelligent interpreters of the directives of the government, be they of the military or civilian organization.

Hon. Lessona also confuted Senator Bongiovanni's proposal that the military organization of Italian East Africa be controlled by the ministry of War, sustaining the proposition that the native troops of the territory should be controlled by the Ministry of Italian East Africa which exercises the political control. Military problems of an international nature, as relate to Italian East Africa in case of an European conflict, appertain to the General Staff of the Army."

Minister Lessona also spoke of the proposed military establishment for Italian East Africa as follows:

The Viceroy will exercise command over the armed forces, by a General Staff, which in general will consist of: A Chief and Deputy Chief of Staff; the various Inspectors of Arms; the military commandant of Addis Ababa; and the Director of Services.

MILITARY ATTACHE
American Embassy
ROME, ITALY

G-2 Report

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6010

There will also be five subsidiary "Troop Commands", one "Troop Command" being assigned to each Governorship. These "Commands" will control all troops in the territory of the governorships.

Italian troops will compose about one-third of the African force.

Since November 1936 the division "Granatieri di Savoia" has been stationed in Addis Abeba as a powerful reserve under the control of the Viceroy.

The colonial force contemplated in the new organization totals:

2478 officers of various ranks of the Army and Militia;

1587 NCOs " " " " " " "

21145 Italian soldiers " " " " "

43270 native troops

12490 animals.

The recruitment of colonial troops is carried out throughout the territory of the Empire at various established centers of recruitment and the response has been such that not all can be accepted.

This loyal response was participated in by the Scioans and Amhara as well as other natives. Many have already been assigned to constituted battalions, one of which took part in the Roman parade for the first anniversary of the Empire.

* * * * *

In discussion of the budget of the Ministry of Italian Africa in the Chamber of Deputies the detailed organization of the forces in East Africa was given as follows:

1 Headquarters General Staff, including:

the Chief of Staff

the Deputy Chief of Staff

the Inspector of Colonial Infantry

the Artillery Inspector

the Engineer Inspector

the Black Shirt Units Inspector

the commander of the Addis Abeba garrison

a Superior Directory of Services, controlling:

1 artillery directory

1 engineer directory

1 motor transport directory

1 medical directory

1 commissary directory

1 veterinary directory

1 administrative inspectorate

1 spiritual welfare inspectorate

1 superior map-making office

Troops:

a) National (Italian)

1 national division "Granatieri di Savoia" composed of:

1 headquarters commanded by a division general of the ARMY
2 Grenadier infantry regiments (4th and 5th) composed of

1 HQ, 1 accompanying battery, 3 battalions and 1 depot

1 machine gun battalion

1 artillery regiment, composed of 1 HQ, 2 pack groups
and 1 depot

2 engineer companies

1 medical company

1 subsistence section

1 group of Black Shirts of 4 motorized battalions

9 motorized Black Shirt machine gun battalions (each composed
of 2 Mg Cos, 1 Co armored cars, 1 Co fast tanks)

MILITARY ATTACHE
American Embassy
ROME, ITALY

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- 3 -

6010

- 4 motorized Black Shirt artillery groups
4 Black Shirt anti-aircraft groups
1 Black Shirt group of 8 fixed batteries
1 Black Shirt special engineer regiment, composed of 1 Hq.,
2 battalions, 1 railway company and 1 depot

b) Colonial (Natives)

- 16 colonial brigades commanded by brigade generals and
colonel's comprising a total of: (Note: each brigade
has 4 Bns of Inf. or 3 Bns of Inf. and 1 group of
Squadrons of Cav., and Arty, Engrs and Med. units)
58 Bns of infantry (5 rifle companies and 1 heavy
m'gun to each)
5 groups of squadrons of cavalry
16 artillery groups (each of 3 batteries of 65/17 mm
howitzers and 2 batteries of 81 mm
mortars)
16 mixed companies of engineers
16 field dispensaries
2 battalions of colonial infantry
6 Dubat bands of Italian Somaliland
1 group of squadrons of colonial cavalry
7 colonial cannoner companies (to man fixed batteries
at various localities)

Services

The following are attached to each "Troop Command" Hq and
to the Hq of the Addis Abeba garrison:

- 1 artillery office with depots and laboratories
1 office of engineer works with depots and laboratories
1 medical office with depot
1 commissary office with depot
1 veterinary office
1 military tribunal
1 map making office

Motor Transport Service

1 special motor transport groupment of Black Shirts composed
of 1 Hq, 3 motor transport groups and 1 depot with storehouses and repair
shop;

1 mixed motor transport section of the Army, with repair shop,
for each troop headquarters.

Territorial Organizations

1 territorial depot with each governorship and with the Hq of
the Addis Abeba garrison;

1 mobilization center with depot for each colonial battalion
or corresponding unit.

The above organization has already been largely effected. The
"Granatieri di Savoia" division has already been sent to East Africa
as well as the Black Shirt battalions of the organization. All colonial
units have been constituted, and a good part of the metropolitan units
as well, personnel having been obtained by voluntary enlistment of Ita-
lians and natives. Applications for volunteer service exceeded the demand.

The native brigades are located in permanent garrisons or military
posts. The Black Shirt battalions are distributed throughout the Empire
where needed. The troops are officered by officers of the Italian Regular
Army, active or reserve. The officers will be specially selected from

2 Report

- 4 -

6010

among those best equipped for colonial service. They will be carried on a colonial specialty list in the War Ministry and rotated so that they serve normally 5 years in the colonies and 2 in Italy.

The Italian workmen now in East Africa and those about to be sent are being organized into Fascist militia formations. A special bureau has been set up in the Ministry of Italian Africa for the organization and operation of labor militia. Each of the 5 territorial governments will have a Legion Hq. Each Legion will be divided into Cohorts of 3,000 militia workmen. Officers for duty with the Legion and Cohort Hq will come from the Fascist militia. Officers, NCOs and Black Shirts of the labor organizations will be selected from among the workmen who have the requisite ability and military experience. The period of service in these labor militia organizations will correspond to the length of the labor contract. Military training will be conducted between working hours. All personnel will be armed and equipped as militia. These labor troops will be considered as forming part of the armed forces of the State.

Comment:

Report Italy # 16,004-6600, May 14, 1937, specified 175,000 troops (exclusive of East African natives) in East Africa as of May 10, 1937. Since that date approximately 5,000 troops have been repatriated leaving about 170,000 men still there to date. It is estimated that this number of men comprises the following:

Italian troops of Colonial Garrison as above	25,000
Troops of R. Aeronautica	13,000
Navy (Port personnel)	5,000
Forestry, Road and Port Militias	2,000
Special troops and services	47,000
Division "Libya"	9,000
Division "Laghi"	9,000
Black Shirt troops (*)	60,000
	170,000

(*) Note: It is believed that these troops included the "21st of April" and "Tevere" divisions and possibly 1 other division and a number of groups of battalions. It has been reported that 30,000 of these troops will be repatriated during the month of June, including the "21st of April" division and probably the "Tevere" division and the other division (name unknown) mentioned above.

G. H. Paine
Col. F.A. USA
Military Attaché



THE FOREIGN SERVICE

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

JUL 21 1937

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE ADVISER ON
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
JUL 19 1937
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

No. 446

AMERICAN EMBASSY

ROME, June 24, 1937.

Subject: Measures concerning Italian East Africa,
approved by the Council of Ministers on
June 21, 1937.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1937 JUL 6 PM 2 10

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK Yes No

To the Field

In U. S. A.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

MARSHAL
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE
JUL 15 1937
A/C

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 7 1937
File MSG
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 432
of June 17, 1937, on the Italian administration and development of Ethiopia, I have the honor to inform the Department that the Council of Ministers at its meeting on June 21, 1937, approved decree-laws providing for the following matters:

(1) An annual contribution of one billion lire by the Government to balance the Italian East Africa budget.

An appropriation of 12 billion lire for a six-year public works program in East Africa, distributed as follows:

million ...

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FILER

JUL 20 1937

Million lire

7,730	roads
670	port projects
300	hydraulic works, power plants
550	sanitary projects
100	mines
1,892.9	building
200	farm colonization, land reclama-
	tion, reforestation
60	telegraph, telephone, radio.
493	military works.

(2) An additional 3 billion lire, spread over three fiscal years beginning with the current fiscal year, for the completion of road projects, now well under way, being built by the governmental Road Building Organization.

(3) The creation of the Italian East Africa Transport Company to (1) carry passengers and goods for the account of the Government, and (2) operate regular automobile lines and mail service along the main roads. The company is a mixed concern, its private share capital completing the contribution made by the government in the form of vehicles and "impianti" (which term would cover stations, garages, machine shops, etc.).

(4) Regulations on importation, processing, storage, and distribution of mineral oils and fuels in Italian East Africa.

(5) Creation of an Autonomous Institute for Economic and Popular Houses in Italian East Africa. It is reported that this organization has already received from various corporations in Italy the sum of 60 million lire to finance its first projects.

(6) Organization of agricultural services in Italian Africa.

(7) ...

(7) Measures to develop, control, and exploit cotton production in Italian Africa.

(8) Organization of a meteorological office at Addis Ababa with branches at Asmara, Mogadiscio, Gondar, Harrar, and Gimma.

(9) Institution of Colonial Councils and Offices of Corporative Economy in Italian East Africa.

(10) Regulations for the protection of fauna and flora in Italian East Africa.

(11) Regulations on the concession of amnesty in Italian East Africa.

(12) Cession to the Order of Malta of territory in Selaclaca (Tigray) for a leprosy hospital and laboratory.

(13) Fiscal exemptions in Italian East Africa for companies operating commercial air lines.

(14) Reorganization of the offices in the Ministry for Italian Africa on the basis of subjects instead of, as hitherto, on the basis of geographical districts.

(15) Provision that after June 30th the present regulations on compensation of the civil and military personnel in Italian East Africa will cease to be in force. The purpose of the new regulation is to make salaries the same throughout the territory, but to grant special indemnities to employees in districts characterized by particularly difficult conditions.

✓ (16) The establishment of a Section of the Court of

Audits ...

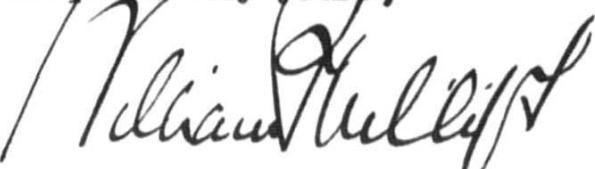
Audits at Addis Ababa with jurisdiction over all Italian East Africa. "Delegations" of the Court are also set up at Addis Ababa, Asmara, Mogadiscio, Gondar, Harrar, and Gimma.

(17) The transformation of the present Italian Colonial Agricultural Institute of Florence into the "Royal Agronomics Institute for Italian Africa." It becomes the scientific and technical organization of the Ministry of Italian Africa for farm research and experimentation, will give specialized training courses for agricultural employees in the technical lists, and will collect and coordinate all data referring to the agricultural development of Italian Africa in so far as these are of interest to technical and scientific research.

At its meeting on June 23rd, the Council of Ministers approved a decree-law granting total customs exemption for all merchandise originating in and imported from Italian East Africa, with the exception of coffee.

Fuller information on the foregoing decrees will be transmitted to the Department upon their publication in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Respectfully yours,



William Phillips.

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801.



DIVISION OF
JUL 15 1937
AMERICAN REPUBLICS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
mingo, D. R.

**LEGATION OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

July 9, 1937.

No. 3937.

Subject: Postponement of Implied Recognition by
Dominican Government of the Italian An-
nexation of Ethiopia; Dismissal by Pres-
ident Trujillo of Dominican Minister ^{to}
Italy.

MINISTER TO
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JUL 21 1937
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

For Distribution

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SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION

RENTMENT CO.
JUL. 19 1937
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Siri

Referring to the Legation's despatch No. 3891 of June 1, 1937, reporting that Mr. Amadeo Barletta, titular Italian Consul here, had informed the Legation that despite the Dominican Government's promise to accredit its Minister to Italy, Señor Augusto Chottín, to the King of Italy and Emperor of Abyssinia, the Minister had been accredited only to the King of Italy, and that he had made renewed representations to the Dominican Government on the subject, I have the honor to enclose, for the Department's information.

tion,

865D.01 / 294

FILED

N/C

1/ tion, a clipping from yesterday's newspaper LISTIN DIARIO purporting to carry the text of Decree No. 1933, signed by President Trujillo on July 3, 1937, summarily cancelling his former Decree No. 1788, of January 2, 1937, appointing Señor Augusto Chottín as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Italy. To date no successor has been named to fill the vacancy caused by Minister Chottín's dismissal.

It is reported that Señor Chottín is now in Washington and, in view of his abrupt dismissal as Minister to Italy and his reported intention not to return to the Dominican Republic, it would appear that he has now joined the ranks of the "voluntary exiles" from the Dominican Republic.

As the Department is aware, Señor Chottín is the half-brother (same father) of Major General José García, Secretary of State for the Interior, Police, War and Marine, and a brother-in-law of President Trujillo. It is understood that Señor Chottín incurred the enmity of President Trujillo shortly before his appointment as Minister to Italy and it is believed in well informed circles that Señor Chottín's appointment as Minister to Italy was an excuse seized upon by President Trujillo to get Chottín out of the country without openly banishing him.

*July 17 N.Y.
One copy sent* Respectfully yours,

H.B.A. Franklin B. Atwood,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:
One, as stated.

801
FBA/vmm

LISTIN DIARIO,
Ciudad Trujillo, Santo Domingo, D. F.

JUL 1937

Importante Decreto del Honorable Señor Presidente de la Rep

Por medio del cual deroga el Decreto No. 1788 que designa al Sr. Augusto Chottin, EE. y M. P. en Italia.

—
**GENERALISIMO
RAFAEL LEONIDAS TRUJILLO
MOLINA.
Presidente de la República
Dominicana.
BENEFACCTOR DE LA PATRIA.**
—

NUMERO 1933.

En virtud de las atribuciones que me confiere la Constitución del Estado,

D E C R E T O :

Único:—Queda derogado el Decreto Núm. 1788, del 2 de enero de 1937, que designa al señor Augusto Chottin Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario en Italia.

DADO en la Ciudad de San Cristóbal, Provincia Trujillo, residencia temporal del Poder Ejecutivo, a los tres días del mes de julio del mil novcientos treintisiete, año 940. de la Independencia y 740. de la Restauración.

RAFAEL L. TRUJILLO.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 711.652/101 FOR Tel. #329, 6pm

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED July 14, 1937.
TO NAME 1-1127 esp

REGARDING: Should it be considered that article 20 to the Treaty being negotiated with Italy which extends the provisions of the treaty to include all territories over which the parties respectively claim and exercise dominion as sovereign may give rise to questions involving recognition; might it not be possible to omit this article from the present treaty and at some subsequent date conclude a separate agreement relating to the colonies and dominions?

j

865D.01 / 295

MA

This telegram must be
closely paraphrased before
being communicated to
anyone. (B)

Rome

Dated July 14, 1937

Rec'd 3:40 p. m.

Secretary of State

Washington

329, July 14, 6 p. m.

In the hope that the negotiations for the treaty of
friendship and commerce are nearing the point of successful
conclusion, may it not be possible at the present time to
give consideration to the two points with respect to which
discussion has up to now been reserved for the reasons set
^{6/1/37, 334}
forth in My 533, December 16, 6 p. m., namely, the preamble
and article 20?

With respect to the first of these it is my understanding
that both the United States and Italy signed the multilateral
convention concluded at Montreux in May of this year for the
abolition of capitulations in Egypt and I presume that in
this connection no difficulty was raised if the title
"King Emperor" was used in the designation of the Italian
plenipotentiary. Furthermore, would there be any legal
distinction between the acceptance by the United States
Government of the credentials of the Italian Ambassador in
Washington made out in the name of the King Emperor and the
signature of a treaty which the American representative
signs on behalf of the President and the Italian representative

on

MA -2- 329, July 14, 6 p. m., from Rome

on behalf of his?

Should it be considered that article 20 which extends the provisions of the treaty to include all territories over which the parties respectively claim and exercise dominion as sovereign may give rise to questions involving recognition; might it not be possible to omit this article from the present treaty and at some subsequent date conclude a separate agreement relating to the colonies and dominions?
865d.01

I should appreciate the Department's preliminary views on the foregoing point for possible use in the event that the Foreign Office brings them up for discussion.

PHILLIPS

CSB

865d.01

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 852.00/6068 FOR Tel. #346, noon

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED July 24, 1937
TO NAME 1-1187 esp

REGARDING: Summary of an editorial which Italian officials have pointed out as significant as coming from Mussolini stating that two fictions are holding up and complicating the European situation; Non-recognition of the Italian Empire in Ethiopia and non-recognition of belligerent rights to Franco, linking these two with the question of volunteers.

ge

865D.01/296
296

EU
NE

lw

GRAY

Rome

Dated July 24, 1937

Rec'd 9:16 a.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

346, July 24, noon.

The following is a summary of an editorial in today's POPOLO D'ITALIA which Italian officials have pointed out as significant as coming from the pen of Mussolini:

Is Europe to perish wrapped in the shroud of the fictions that have dominated it for the past twenty years from reparations and war debts to the universality, equality of membership and pacifism of the League? Two burning fictions are already present holding up and complicating the European (*): non-recognition of the Italian Empire of Ethiopia and non-recognition of belligerent rights to France. It is insisted that this question be linked with that of volunteers. The latter is practically non-existent since if no further contingents are being sent it obviously solves itself through the terrible wearing down process of war. To withhold recognition of belligerent rights greatly complicates affairs whereas to grant it would radically simplify them. It is universally realized that the Nationalist ..

Government

b068

2 lw, No. 346, July 24, noon, from Rome

Government possesses all requisites for such action and yet people keep on pretending to believe that Franco is only a rebel general.

Instead of facing problems as they are Europe continues a game of unreasonable (*). Some day these card castles will fall before reality.

PHILLIPS

(*) omissions

CSB

865D.01/297

DOCUMENT FILE**NOTE**

SEE 783.003/275 **FOR** letter

FROM Capitulatory Conference (Alling) **DATED** May 12, 1937
TO (Egypt) **NAME** 1-1127 680

REGARDING: Description in the Montreux Capitulations Convention of the King of Italy as Emperor of Ethiopia.

Comments on -.

W1

765d.01

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.00/99 FOR despatch #488

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED July 15, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 spa

REGARDING: Recognition of Italian East Africa

Translation of Lansbury's remarks
to press correspondents following
his conversation with Mussolini
at which time Mussolini stated
a discussion between Italian and
British representatives would open
the way to recognition of the new
state of affairs in Abyssinia.

dg

865D.01/298

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.65/387 FOR Tel. #97, 5pm

FROM Poland (Biddle) DATED July 30, 1937.
TO NAME 1-1127 o.p.o

865D.01 / 299

REGARDING: FOR THE SECRETARY.

Chamberlain willing to send Eden to Rome to discuss preparations
for proposed new four power Locarno Pact. Great Britain's
attitude toward Abyssinian question.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.65/393 FOR Tel. 361- 2pm

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Aug. 3, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 EPO

REGARDING: Ethiopian Empire recognition. Statement of Sir Eric Chamberlain that there is no possibility of settling questions pending between Italian and British Governments, which are almost exclusively of a colonial nature, until after the question of has been satisfactorily disposed of.

f'p

865D.01 / 300

EU

RB

This telegram must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. (B)

Rome

Dated August 4, 1937

Rec'd 1:45 p. m.

Secretary of State

Washington.

361, August 4, 2 p. m.

My telegram No. 358, August 3, 11 a. m.

The British Ambassador has furnished me following
background information concerning exchange of letters
between Chamberlain and Mussolini:

At the time Chamberlain took office as Prime Minister,
Mussolini instructed Grandi to deliver to him a personal
congratulatory message to be communicated orally when
Grandi considered the moment opportune. Grandi apparently
felt that Eden's speech in the House of Commons on July 19th
afforded a favorable opportunity for delivery of the message
and he acted accordingly. A few days later Chamberlain
addressed a letter to Mussolini thanking him for his message.
Chamberlain also referred to his brother Austin's favorable
opinion of Mussolini and expressed a willingness to enter
into discussions with a view to settling outstanding dif-
ficulties. Mussolini replied in similar vein stating that
he

393

RB

-2-#361, August 4, 2 p. m. from Rome

he would welcome such discussions. Sir Eric said he did not believe these letters would be published as they were of a rather personal and very general character. He is of the opinion that the conversations should take place in Rome rather than in London and feels strongly that they should be put off until after the September meeting of the League of Nations. He said there is no possibility of settling questions pending between the two governments, which are almost exclusively of a colonial nature, until after the question of Ethiopian Empire recognition has been satisfactorily disposed of. He considers that it would be extremely unfair to other members of the League were Great Britain to undertake to reach an agreement with Italy on recognition prior to and independently of the League meeting.

The tone of the press here continues to reflect much optimism regarding the prospects of a rapprochement with Great Britain and this feeling has been accentuated by an interview which Ciano gave yesterday to Universal Press and which has doubtless been featured in the American press.

Copies mailed to London, Paris, Berlin.

PHILLIPS

GW

HPD

DOCUMENT FILE**NOTE**

SEE 741.65/392 FOR Tel. #185, 1 p.m.

FROM Germany (Mayer) DATED Aug. 4, 1937
TO NAME 1-1137 SPS

REGARDING: Recognition of Italy's position in Abyssinia. Conversation with the Soviet Counsellor concerning the nonintervention situation, indicating that their information was to the effect that the Chamberlain-Mussolini communications had reached the point of considering concrete matters, such as,-

mb

865D.01 / 301

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 849b.00/79 FOR Despatch #51

FROM Malta (**Green**) **DATED** July 30, 1937
TO **NAME** 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Recognition by Great Britain of Italy's gains in Abyssinia. The local press hints that there is some possibility of, - in return for assurances of maintenance of the status quo in the Mediterranean.

fp

865D.01 / 302

865D.01

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 852.00/6164 Confidential File FOR Tel. #1116, noon
#1117, 1118, 1119

FROM France (Bullitt) DATED Aug. 5, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 esp

REGARDING: Recognition of government of Italian East Africa. Conversation with Chautemps during which he stated that the British had decided to push the recognition of the King of Italy as emperor of Ethiopia at the next meeting of the League, that they were ready to offer this advantage in return for Mussolini's relinquishment of certain positions to which he had no right.

ge

865D.01 / 303

Confidential File

DOCUMENT FILE**NOTE**

SEE 852.00/6167 FOR Tel. #729, 8 pm

FROM Spain TO Thurston at Valencia DATED Aug. 5, 1937
NAME NAME 1-1127 SPO

REGARDING:

Recognition of King of Italy as Emperor of Italian East Africa.
Comment on attitude of the British Government to decision
of the Spanish Government to send a delegation to Geneva
to request the League to take action in the Spanish conflict
by applying sanctions, which is attributed to the possibility
that the declaration may embarrass negotiations between Great
Britain and Italy concerning the Ethiopian issue.

ge

865D.01 / 304

865D. 01 / 305

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE ..851.00/1712..... Confidential File..... FOR Tel. 1146- 11pm.....

FROM France (Bullitt) DATED Aug. 11, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 6PM

REGARDING: Government- Italy. Statement of Chautemps that he had let Cerutti, Italian Ambassador in Paris, understand that France positively would not recognize the King of Italy as Emperor of Ethiopia this September but would favor action by the League at that time which would permit France to recognize the King as Emperor of Ethiopia.

fP

Confidential File

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.65/403 FOR Des#3287

FROM Great Britain (Johnson) DATED Aug. 10, 1937
fb NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Diplomatic correspondent of the DAILY TELEGRAPH believes Prime Minister Chamberlain wants the recognition of Abyssinia question fully clarified this autumn so as to remove one important obstacle to any practical advance towards European appeasement. Believes the League Assembly will take action in September.

865D.OI / 306

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.00/101 FOR Tel. 384 - 7pm

FROM Italy Phillips) DATED Aug. 21, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 686

REGARDING: Government- Italian East Africa. Statement in editorial by Gayda, that the Ethiopia question must be definitely eliminated and the facts accepted unequivocally. Of the League, Italy only asks recognition of the nonexistence of the empire of the Negus whereupon each country can then regulate its conduct as it sees fit.

865D • 01 / 307

fp

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 823.24/119 FOR # 5306

FROM Peru (Dreyfus) DATED Aug. 23, 1937.
TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Rumored bargaining for recognition of Italian Empire.

Comment on rumored offer of sale of Italian armaments to Ecuador and Peru, part to be without cost in return for recognition.

865D-01/308

jah

865d.01

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 740.00/206 ^{Confidential} FOR #555

FROM Italy (Reed) DATED Sept. 2, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 err

REGARDING: Ambassador's conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

With regard to the Ethiopian situation, Count Ciano did not know whether the problem would be settled at the forthcoming League meeting. Said that all that Italy asked would be refusal on part of the League to seat the Ethiopian delegation, which would be tantamount to recognition that the Ethiopian Empire no longer existed.

mb

865d.01 / 306
602

dgd.01

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 740.00/207 FOR tel #596 7pm

FROM Great Britain (Johnson) DATED Sept. 14, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 gpo

REGARDING: Abyssinian question

If Abyssinia is an obstacle to Anglo-Italian rapprochement is of the opinion the British will find some practical way to dispose of it

dg

865D.01/310

3 / 1
2

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.00/18 FOR #81

FROM Aden (Colquitt) DATED Aug. 31, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 670

REGARDING: Conditions in Ethiopia.

Report on - with conclusion that conditions are unsatisfactory under Italian rule and that substantial advancement can be brought about only at tremendous cost and over a period of many years.

Wi

365D .01 /311

865 D. OI / 312

865 D. OI / 312
865 D. OI / 312

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 852.00/6530 FOR Tel. #605, 7 pm

FROM Great Britain (Johnson) DATED Sept. 23, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 e.p.o.

REGARDING: Abyssinian question. The British Foreign Office expressed regret that no one during the meeting of the League Assembly had had the courage to tackle the question of Abyssinia.

ge

d'01

DOCUMENT FILE

dg

NOTE

SEE 765.90b 2/6 FOR despatch #562

FROM Italy (Reed) DATED Sept. 9, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 epe

REGARDING: Government of Italian East Africa

Treaty of Friendship between Italy and the
Yemen, signed Sept. 4, 1937 at Sanaa recognizes
the -.

dg

865D • 01/313

DOCUMENT FILE**NOTE**SEE 852.00/6579 FOR Tel. #623, 7 pmFROM Great Britain (Johnson) DATED Sept. 30, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 ero**REGARDING:**

Recognition of the fait accompli in Abyssinia. Regret expressed by the British Foreign Office that the question of --, was not settled at Geneva. Great Britain cannot disassociate herself easily from the League on such a matter and Mussolini is thought to hold the entirely erroneous belief that Great Britain is trying to block recognition of the Italian conquest.

ge

365D.01/314

EU
NE

RB

A portion of this telegram
must be closely paraphrased-
before being communicated
to anyone. (A)

LONDON

Dated SEPTEMBER 30, 1937

Rec'd 4:32 p. m.

Secretary of State

Washington.

623, SEPTEMBER 30, 7 p. m.

(GRAY) My 612, SEPTEMBER 25, 4 p. m.

The Cabinet has approved provisionally a draft of a

joint communication by Great Britain and France to Italy
which has been under elaboration for the past several days.

It is understood the note will propose three power talks
on means for making effective non-intervention in Spain
and that it will tackle the all important problem of with-
drawal of the foreign forces now in that country. (END GRAY)

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. I gather from conversations
during the last two days with responsible officials that
they view the problem plainly in its immediate aspect as
an Anglo-Italian issue with France and Germany as figures.
Mussolini wants a rapprochement with England and at the same
time hopes that he can gather enough support to have it on
his own terms. The conclusion of the Nyon agreement, however,
with its demonstration that Great Britain and France meant

business

6579

RB -2- #623, September 30, 7 p. m. from London

business on the vitally important issue of law and security in the Mediterranean has somewhat shaken his confidence; and his visit to Hitler has not, it is believed, offered him anything in the way of encouragement toward enlarging the scope of his activities in Spain. Whether he will accept the Anglo-French demarche is of course not known, but even if he does, it would be bold, in the view here, to argue optimistically that any very forward step had been taken toward a real Anglo-Italian rapprochement. The Foreign Office views with extreme regret that the question of recognizing the fait accompli in Abyssinia has not been settled at Geneva. It has been made plain to me that the Foreign Office is willing to recognize the Italian conquest as a fait accompli but obviously the question of a formula for putting this recognition into effect offers real difficulties. Great Britain cannot disassociate herself easily from the League on such a matter and Mussolini is thought to hold the entirely erroneous belief that Great Britain is trying to block recognition of the Italian conquest. He is suspicious of British sincerity and it seems that he does not fully understand that the thing vital to this country on which it will not recede is absolute security of the sea route through the Mediterranean. Just why the British are not willing themselves

RB -3- #623, SEPTEMBER 30, 7 p. m. from London

willing themselves to take the initiative at GENEVA on this question, in view of their realistic conception of the facts, is not clear, although they may perhaps consider that Mussolini would, in his present aggrieved and truculent state of mind, take it as an indication of British weakness, thus making negotiation with him difficult on more important and pressing issues.

JOHNSON

NPL

RGC

Guaranty Trust Company of New York

New York Offices
140 Broadway
Fifth Avenue at 59th St
Madison Avenue at 60th St.

OCT 27 AM 10 05

140 Broadway

New York October 26, 1937

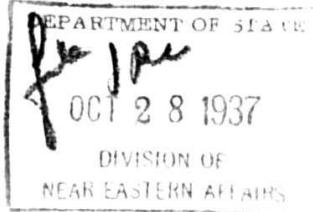
Foreign Offices
London Liverpool Paris
Brussels Havre Antwerp

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

In replying please refer to 849-1

ack'd
11/1/37
JRC/849
11/1/37

Department of State,
Washington,
D. C.



Gentlemen:

In our booklet, "Bank and Public Holidays Throughout the World," which we shall publish soon for the year 1938, we shall endeavor to list the countries that are recognized by your department.

In a dispatch from Washington in the New York Times of March 6, you stated that the American Legation and Consulate in Addis Ababa would be closed and diplomatic and consular representation of the United States in Ethiopia terminated on March 31. It further states that this action by the State Department did not constitute recognition de facto or otherwise of Italy's conquest of the country.

If you have not recognized Italy's conquest of the country, do you believe it would be advisable for us to list Ethiopia in our publication under its own name and without reference to the recent war?

NOV 4 - 1937

Yours very truly,

H. W. Corbinde

Manager

365D.01/315

November 3 1937

In reply refer to
NE 865D.01/315

Mr. H. W. Carlisle,
Manager, Guaranty Trust Company of New York,
140 Broadway,
New York, New York.

Sir:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 26, 1937 (849-1), inquiring concerning the advisability of listing Ethiopia, under its own name and without reference to the recent Italian-Ethiopian conflict, in your booklet entitled "Bank and Public Holidays Throughout the World" in which you propose to include only the countries recognized by this Government.

The Department regrets that it is not in a position to offer any advice in the above connection as it is not in accordance with its practice to pass upon the contents of material embodied in non-official publications.

Very truly yours,

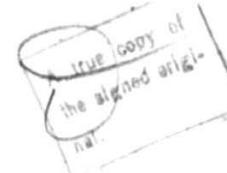
For the Secretary of State:

NOV 3 1937 PM

Wallace Murray,
Chief, Division of Near Eastern Affairs

NE JRC/WSM EG

JPL *MW*



365D.01/315

NH/C

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 701.6539/5 FOR Despatch #27

FROM Dominican Republic (Atwood) DATED Oct. 18, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Mario Porta presented credentials as Envoy of King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia and was received as such by the President.

✓

865D.01 / 3 | 6

885d. 01

*Legation of the United
States of America*

Ciudad Trujillo, Santo Domingo, D. R.,

October 18, 1937.

No. 27

**Subject: Presentation of Credentials by New Italian
Minister: Recognition of Italian Empire of
Ethiopia.**

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that on October 16, the new Italian Minister to the Dominican Republic, Knight Commander Mario Porta, presented his credentials to President Trujillo as the Envoy of the King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia. He was received as such by the President, thus constituting a tacit recognition by the Dominican Republic of the Italian conquest of Ethiopia.

The Minister's address to President Trujillo contained nothing of special note other than to emphasize that his letters of credence were from the King of

Italy

Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia and to stress the identity between Italy and the Dominican Republic in their political philosophy of "disciplined liberty". President Trujillo in response stated:

"I receive the letters of credence which accredit you with the character of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia before my Government."

The President stressed the similarity of principles which guide his own and the Italian Government. He emphasized somewhat significantly that this identity of ideas was stronger than temporary forces tending to separate the two States, a possible reference to the strained relations between Italy and his Government arising from the Barletta affair.

It would appear, therefore, that the conversations initiated early this year by the honorary Italian Consul, Signor Barletta, in his attempt to persuade the Dominican Government to recognize the Italian conquest of Ethiopia have at last borne fruit. It will be noted, however, (see Legation's despatches Nos. 3721 of January 12, 1937 and 3724 of January 13, 1937) that the Dominican Government has adhered to its original thesis that it would make no overt statement acknowledging the Italian regime in Abyssinia, confining the act to the tacit recognition implied in accepting credentials from the "Emperor of Ethiopia".

In return for such recognition the Italian Government has accredited its first Minister with actual

residence

residence in this capital, thus satisfying the long-cherished desire of President Trujillo to increase the tiny diplomatic corps in his capital city.

Respectfully yours,

Franklin B. Atwood,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

701.1
RMC/wlg

wlg

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 701.6551/11

FOR Tel. 1503, noon

FROM France (Bullitt) DATED Oct. 23, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 6PO

REGARDING:

Italian Ambassador to France to be withdrawn and replace by a Charge d'Affaires in retaliation for refusal of French Government to accredit an Ambassador to the King of Italy, Emperor of Ethiopia.

M V

865D.01/317

OCT 29

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

DCR

Please file
this under ~~the~~ the U.S.
question - V the U.S.
recognize - 2 day
conflict of Ethiopia.
HOD

LESTER S. ABBERLEY

RECEIVED
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NEW YORK, N.Y.

TELEPHONE CIRCLE 7-1281
1937 OCT 22 PM 3 47



DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

October 22, 1937.

Hon. Harry A. McBride,
Assistant to the Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McBride:

As you probably know, one of the tenants of Rockefeller is the Consul General of Italy who has space in the International Building. On the entrance door of the leased property now appears the following designation:

"CONSOLATO GENERALE DI S.M.
IL RE D'ITALIA"

We have just received a request from the Consular Agent asking us to add to the above designation, the following:

"IMPERATORE D'ETIOPIA".

I suppose that I ought to know but I have not kept in close enough contact with the situation to be able to advise my associates whether or not our Government has recognized the King of Italy as the Emperor of Ethiopia. If we have given such recognition I will advise that we consent to this additional designation, but if we have not given it, then I would pause.

With all good wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Lester S. Abberley

NOV 5 - 1937
CABLED

825D.01/18

The question you raise in your personal letter
of October 22, 1937, has not come before the Department.
No new question has arisen in our relationship with it.

Any decision you might make with regard to the re-
quest before you would have no bearing on the official
relationship between this country and Italy.

Very truly yours
John E. Tamm
Secretary

Noted
EV
Oct 29 1937
NYHC

F.W. 365D. OI/218



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

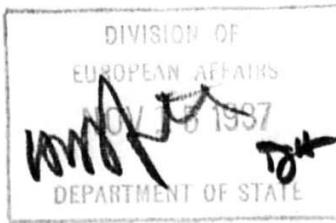
40
AMERICAN EMBASSY

No. 621

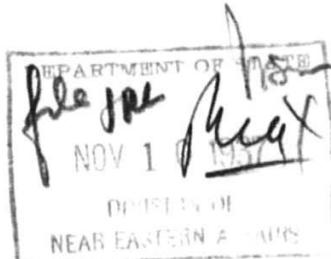
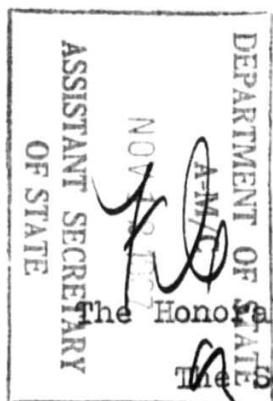
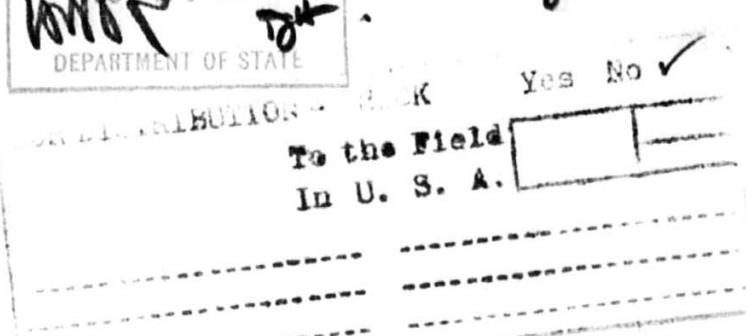
ROME, October 29, 1937.

Subject: Recognition by Fascist Government of services of Eritreans and Somalis during Ethiopian Campaign.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 1 1937
1937 NOV 9 PM 1 44
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS



Copy in Envelope



Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 233 of February 24, 1937, I have the honor to quote in translation the following statement carried in the Italian press on October 28, 1937:

85d01/365
NOV 1 1937
FILED

"At the beginning of the 16 year of the Fascist Era, recognizing the notable services of Eritreans and Somalis during the Ethiopian campaign, not only by contributing valorous troops to the conquest of the Empire,

but

865D • 01/319

but also by working in every way for the final victory
the Duce has ordered:

"1. In all documents of the Government indigenes
of Eritrea and Somalia are no longer to be designated as
'natives' but as 'Eritreans' and 'Somalis'.

"2. Preference is to be given in employment in
the local East African Government to those Eritreans and
Somalis who have fought with the Italian Army or whose
fathers have been killed in action.

"3. Similar preference is to be given for appoint-
ment to the positions of 'chiefs' and 'notables' in Eri-
trea and Somalia.

"4. An institute for assistance to Eritrean and
Somali wounded veterans and a school for war orphans are
to be created in Asmara and Mogadiscio.

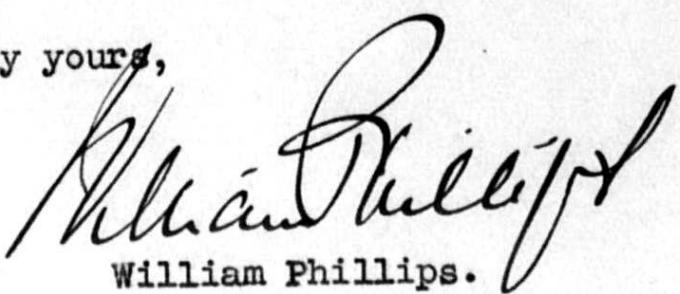
"5. The local Governments in East Africa are, up
to the limits of their powers in the matter, to issue to
Eritreans and Somalis applying therefor licenses to carry
on commerce, open cafés, restaurants, etc., carry on the
trade of chauffeur, and engage in all other trades, with-
out restriction.

"6. An amnesty of exceptional importance is to be
granted to Eritreans and Somalis.

"The Duce has ordered the Viceroy, Marshal Graziani,
and the Governor of Italian East Africa to bring to the

knowledge of the Eritrean and Somali armed forces and the population, in the most formal manner, this recognition by the Fascist Government toward our two faithful countries bordering on the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean."

Respectfully yours,



A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "William Phillips".

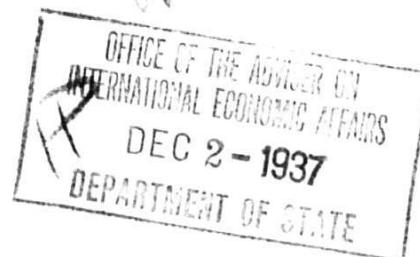
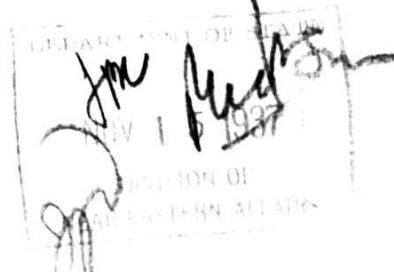
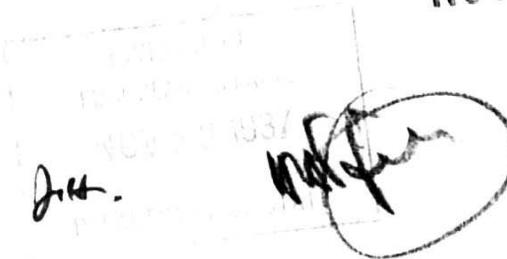
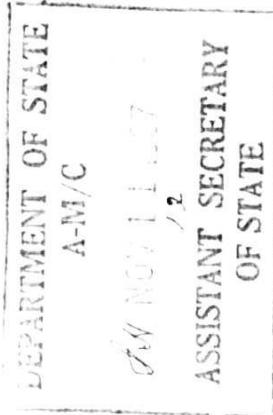
William Phillips.

Voluntary

21251

No. 76 - 1937

A-M/C
RECORDING DESK
FILE - Q



GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF INDUSTRIAL
AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES
IN ITALIAN EAST AFRICA

By: American Consul

Withey
Howard R. Withey.

Naples, Italy. Date of completion: October 21, 1937.

Date of mailing: October 27, 1937.

APPROVED:

Thomas D. Bowman
Thomas D. Bowman,
American Consul General.

365D.01/320

The industrial and commercial development of Italian East Africa was put on a corporative (in the Fascist sense) basis in an early stage of organization. The selection, direction and control of industrial and commercial initiative have been handled through the familiar syndical and corporative institutions and the fundamental aim has been to prevent a chaotic influx of wild-cat concerns and others not adequately equipped for successful functioning under the conditions existing in the colony.

So far the Ministry of Italian Africa has issued 936 permits for commercial and 952 for industrial enterprises. These permits were exclusive of those issued for minor projects by the five local "governments" into which Italian East Africa is divided. During the last year the Ministry examined and decided many thousands of permit applications.

The system now in effect works about as described below.

Establishment in
East Africa of
Persons or Concerns
Domiciled in Italy. All such wishing to engage in economic activities in the colony must file an application with the provincial council of corporations in the place of legal domicile, the application being addressed to the Ministry of Italian Africa or to the central colonial administration or to the regional governments, depending upon the jurisdictions next following.

A. - The Ministry of Italian Africa has jurisdiction over: (1) wholesale trade regardless of the

amount

amount of capital engaged in the enterprise; (2) industrial activity when the capital engaged is not less than 500,000 lire; (3) industries engaged in the production of spectacles (theatres, motion pictures, etc.) irrespective of the amount of capital invested; (4) automotive transport enterprises involving the use of not less than ten vehicles belonging to the applicant; (5) industries and commercial concerns doing business in carburants or lubricants regardless of the amount of capital employed.

B. - The "governments" of Italian East Africa, upon the advice of the local corporative organizations, decide the following applications: (1) retail commerce irrespective of invested capital; (2) industrial activities when the capital involved is less than 500,000 lire; (3) activities of artisans in general; (4) automotive transport businesses when the applicant utilizes less than ten vehicles; (5) the establishment of hotels, boarding houses, pensions, restaurants and cafés; (6) automotive repair shops and garages.

Sometimes the applicant for a permit does not indicate the part of the colony in which he wishes to operate. In those cases the central administration of the whole colony, as distinguished from the regional "governments", decides the matter.

Transfer or Extension
from One Part of the
Colony to Another.

Anyone wishing to transfer or extend a commercial business to another "government", whether he continues business in the original territory or not, must file an application with the regional administration (Govern-

ment) of the territory within which he is already operating. The application is however referred to the central Government at Addis Ababa and its decision, made after having consulted the local corporative organs concerned, is final. Anyone wishing to extent an industrial business already in operation or to transfer it from one "government" to another, without abandoning the original enterprise, must apply for permission to the Ministry of Italian Africa which Ministry also consults with the appropriate colonial corporative agencies. These provisions however apply only to those businesses which represent an investment of over 500,000 lire. Where the invested capital is less than that the applications are decided by the central colonial administration.

852
HFW.BL

Sources of information:

Regulations issued by the Ministry of Italian East Africa; miscellaneous information on file.

Five copies to the Department of State.
One copy to the Commercial Attaché, Rome.

*Ano 11/4/37
NE-JPC/9C.*

~~RE~~
~~SPC~~

Guaranty Trust Company of New York

New York Offices
140 Broadway
Fifth Avenue at 44th St.
Madison Avenue at 60th St.

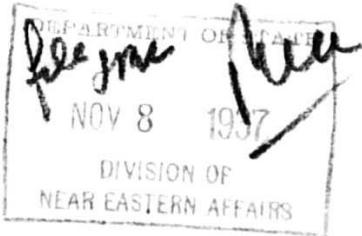
140 Broadway

New York

November 5, 1937

Foreign Offices
London
Liverpool
Brussels
Paris
Havre
Antwerp

In replying please refer to 810-1



Mr. Wallace Murray,
Chief, Division of Near Eastern Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

NE 865D.01/315

Dear Sir:

We have received your letter of November 3, explaining your attitude toward non-official publications. Will you please let us know, as a matter of information, if the United States Government has recognized officially Italy's conquest of Ethiopia.

Yours very truly,

H. W. Carlin

Manager

NOV 18 1937

CERTIFIED

365D.01/321

In reply refer to
NE

November 11 1937

Mr. H. W. Carlisle,
Manager,
Guaranty Trust Company of New York,
140 Broadway,
New York, New York.

Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of November 5, 1937, asking to be informed, as a matter of information, whether the United States Government has recognized officially Italy's conquest of Ethiopia.

It is, of course, a matter of public knowledge that the territory of the Empire of Ethiopia is now being administered in large part, if not entirely, by Italian military authorities. The Department of State, however, has had no occasion to express any opinion as to the juridical consequences of that situation.

Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Wallace Murray
Chief, Division of Near Eastern Affairs

NE: JRC/EC

JRC *[Signature]*

[Handwritten signatures and initials: L.C., D.E.U., J.H., and others]

865D.01/321

865d.01

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 762.94/193 FOR Tel. #476, 11 a.m.

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Nov. 13, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 o.p.o

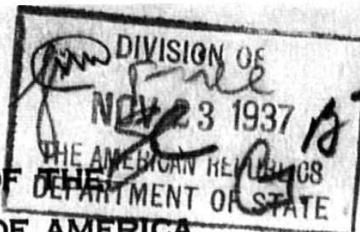
REGARDING: Recognition of Italian colonies. In conversation with Count Ciano, he stated that a number of matters between Italy and Great Britain remained to be adjusted and as they were chiefly colonial matters, - was a necessary preliminary.

b

865D.01/322
322

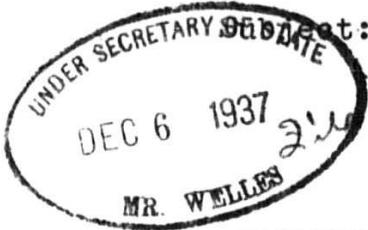


LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Managua, D.N., Nicaragua, November 16, 1937.

No. 721.



CONFIDENTIAL.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
4

1937 NOV 22 PM 1 37

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS



The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

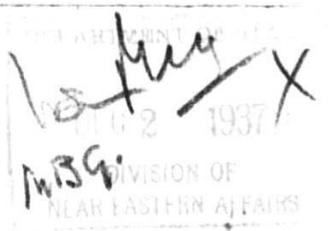
Sir:

I have the honor to report that, according to the local press, the Nicaraguan Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, on November 11, 1937, telegraphed the Italian Minister accredited to Nicaragua but residing in San José, Costa Rica, and congratulated him "on the occasion of the Sixty Ninth Anniversary of the Birth of His Majesty Victor Emmanuel III, King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia."

I inquired informally at the Foreign Office whether this news item were correct and if Nicaragua recognized the claims of Italy over Ethiopia. The

Acting

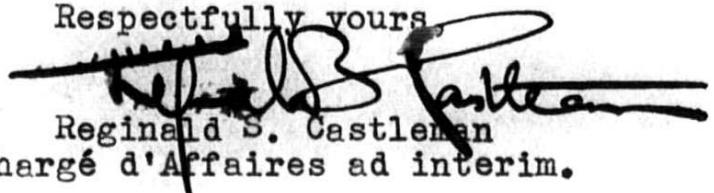
DEC 7 1937



8650.01/223

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs told me that the telegram had been sent merely as an act of courtesy and that the term "Emperor of Ethiopia" in no way implied Nicaraguan recognition of Italian claims.

Respectfully yours,


Reginald S. Castleman
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

3 Carbon Copies

Revised 7 H.C.

3 carbons out
Nov 26 3 2 R.

801.
JWC/RSC/lbg.



K

Felicitación de Nicaragua por el natalicio del Rey de Italia y Emperador d'Etiopia

Vía Radio Nacional—Ministerio da Relaciones Exteriores Ma-
nagua, D. N., 11 de Noviem-
bre de 1937.

Excmo. Sr. Iginio Ugo Fara-
lli, Enviado Extraordinario y
Ministro Plenipotenciario de Ita-
lia, San José, C. R.

En nombre del Gobierno de
Nicaragua y en el mío propio,
complázcame enviar a Vuestra
Excelencia las más cumplidas fe-
licitaciones con motivo del
LXIX aniversario del natalicio
de su majestad Victor Ma-
nuel III, Rey de Italia y Empe-
rador de Etiopía.

Aprovechando esta oportuni-
dad para renovar Vuestra Exce-
lencia las muestras de mi alta y
distinguida consideración.

Antonio Barquero
Ministro de Relaciones
Exteriores por la ley.

865D.01/324

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 701.6551/13 FOR Despatch #1211

FROM France (Bullitt) DATED Nov. 2, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 esp

REGARDING:

French Government unable to agree to Italian demand that appointed ambassador should be accredited to the King of Italy, "Emperor of Ethiopia" and as a consequence French Embassy in Rome has been left in the hands of a charge d'affaires during the past year and the Italian Government has retaliated by withdrawing their Ambassador from Paris.

M ✓

865D.01/

Paris, November 2, 1957

No. 1211

CONFIDENTIAL.

Subject: Withdrawal from Paris of
Italian Ambassador.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to my telegrams No.1503, October 23,
12 noon, and No.1539, October 28, 7 P.M., regarding the
expected withdrawal from Paris of the Italian Ambassador,
I have the honor to report that M. Cerruti left Paris
on October 31.

While the official Italian explanation for the
withdrawal of M. Cerruti is that he is taking a prolonged
leave of absence and will probably be retired, it is, of
course, fully recognized in all quarters that the real
explanation is retaliation against the French Government

because.....

because of the fact that during the past year the French Embassy in Rome has been left in the hands of a chargé d'affaires, the French Government having been unable to agree to the Italian demand that the appointed ambassador, M. de Saint Quentin, should be accredited to the King of Italy, "Emperor of Ethiopia".

Foreign Office opinion here holds that the French Government has been shabbily treated by the Italian Government in this matter. In the first place, it is believed that the Italian Government has failed to recognize and appreciate the restraining influence which the French Government sought to exercise at certain stages of the Ethiopian affair upon the apparent desire of other countries, notably Great Britain, to accentuate the force of economic sanctions against Italy. Furthermore, it is felt here that it should be amply clear to the Italian Government that the French Government has desired to liquidate the Ethiopian affair, and would have been only too happy if a decent way could have been found for the Assembly at Geneva to take a decision which would permit the formal recognition of the Italian conquest and annexation of Ethiopia. It is felt here that the Italian authorities should be able to appreciate the fact that France is bound by the decisions of the Council and Assembly at Geneva and could not act independently of or contrary to the decision of those bodies.

Furthermore, it is considered in Paris that the Italian Government, far from making an effort to adjust this troublesome question of the French Embassy in Rome, has gone out of its way to be disagreeable to the French

Government.....

Government. It is stated here that, when the French Government decided over a year ago to retire Count de Chambrun as Ambassador in Rome, the Italian Government gave its agreement to the appointment of M. de Saint Quentin without raising any conditions, and that it was only later, after M. de Saint Quentin's appointment was officially announced, that the Italian Government advised the French Government that the new ambassador would not be received unless his letters were addressed to the King of Italy, "Emperor of Ethiopia". In this connection, the Foreign Office here refers to the agreement given by the Italian Government in July 1936 (it is believed) to the appointment of Ambassador Phillips in Rome, the proclamation of the annexation of Ethiopia having taken place in June; and furthermore to the fact that Ambassador Phillips later carried letters of credence addressed only to the King of Italy, these letters being accepted by the Italian Government without objection. It is, moreover, pointed out that the Italian Government, in order to avoid an incident of similar nature with Great Britain, has agreed that the British Ambassador in Rome, Lord Perth, should not present new letters of credence, as would ordinarily be done following the accession to the throne of a new sovereign in Great Britain. It is noted that the Italian Government has gone out of its way to make difficulties for the French Government in the matter of its Embassy in Rome, while going out of its way to prevent similar difficulties regarding the British Embassy in Rome.

It may be of some interest to note that the

withdrawal.....

withdrawal of M. Cerruti may have been decided upon suddenly by his Government. We reported in our despatch No.1150 of October 19, 1937, that the then Counselor of the Italian Embassy here, Baron Scaduto, had been given only a few days to wind up his personal arrangements, leave the Embassy and make way for his successor. It seems possible that the Italian Government may have reached a sudden decision to recall Ambassador Cerruti and found it advisable to have the Embassy here left in charge, in the absence of an ambassador, of an official who had been recently in closer contact with the Foreign Office than Scaduto. M. Prunas, who will act as Chargé d'Affaires, arrived in Paris only a few days ago. According to his own statement, he spent the past year in the Foreign Office at Rome. We have heard, from a reliable source, that during that period he was regarded as one of the outstandingly capable officials at the Foreign Office. Prior to that period, Prunas served in Geneva, as a member of the Political Section of the League Secretariat.

Respectfully yours,

(SIGNED) WILLIAM C. BULLITT

William C. Bullitt

In triplicate

Copies by pouch to
London & Rome.

ECW/FP

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.62/194 Confidential File FOR Tel. 136-nan

FROM Poland (Biddle.) DATED Nov. 15, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 ero

REGARDING: Italian conquest of Abyssinia. Hitler is prepared to offer good offices towards helping bring about truce in the Sino-Japanese conflict and the Spanish civil conflict provided Great Britain will use good offices to persuade other powers to recognize, -.

fp

365D • 01 / 325

Confidential File

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 701.60h65/8 FOR Tel. 1620, 6pm

FROM France (Wilson) DATED Nov. 17, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 ***

REGARDING:

Yugoslav Minister to Italy:
Report that - will present credentials to "King of Italy, Emperor
of Ethiopia"; report confirmed.

M

865D.01 / 326

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 760h.65/758 FOR Tel. #54, 8pm

FROM Yugoslavia (Lane) DATED November 18, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 QPQ

REGARDING: New Yugoslav Minister to Italy credence addressed to the King
of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia.

J

8650 • 01 / 327

865D • 01 / 328

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 740.00/225 Confidential File FOR Tela # 1646, 5 p.m.

FROM France (Bullitt) DATED November 22, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: In conversation with Delbos on the European situation, Delbos said that neither he nor Chautemps would object to accrediting an Ambassador to the King of Italy, Emperor of Ethiopia, if that were the only bone of contention between France and Italy.

J

Confidential File

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

865D.01 / 3281

2

3281
2

SEE 123 Bullitt, William C./382 FOR #1267

Confidential File

FROM France (Bullitt) DATED Nov. 23, 1937
TO NAME I-1127 esp

REGARDING: Visit of Ambassador Bullitt to Warsaw and Berlin. Memorandum of conversation between the Ambassador and the Italian Ambassador to Berlin. Ambassador Attolico remarked that Mussolini desired peace and would be ready to support peace anywhere in return for recognition of the King of Italy as Emperor of Ethiopia. Attolico also expressed the belief that if Ethiopia should be recognized as an Italian possession, it would be possible for Italy to begin conversations for a new Locarno, and that Germany would follow in such conversations.

SEE enclosure No. 3, page 1 and 2.

t fv

Confidential File

865D.01

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.00/22

FOR despatch #99

FROM Aden (Chiperfield) DATED Nov. 6, 1937.
TO NAME 1-1127 ***

REGARDING:
Morale of the Italians in Ethiopia is not good.

865D.01 / 329
329

a

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.00/21 FOR #628

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Nov. 3, 1937

TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

(Enclosing report of October 8, 1937 by Mr. Jay Walker, Cairo.)

REGARDING: Italian administration of Libya.

There is no legislative or advisory council in the colony. Full powers rest with Governor General who rules by issuing decrees and enforcing them. Many Italian laws are enforced in Libya but in most cases, the Governor General applies his own interpretation for local enforcement.

865D.01/330

lec

* SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS IN LIBYA

(by Vice Consul Jay Walker)

Cairo, Egypt,

October 8, 1937.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Acquisition of Colony.

During 1911, the Italian armed forces first occupied the sea-ports of Tripolitania and Cirenaica. As the campaign progressed, the military occupation was extended to include points in several zones as far as sixty miles inland. The Treaty of Ouchy, October 18, 1912, closing the Italo-Turkish War of 1911-1912, gave Italy theoretical control of an area only about one half as large as the present Libya. The Italians were compelled, during the World War, to withdraw their military forces from the interior of the country and concentrate them behind the newly erected walls around the cities of Tripoli and Bengasi; also the towns of Homs and Derna.

Shortly after the World War, the Italians again renewed their military campaign; extended the lines of occupation along the whole coastal area, and re-occupied the towns of Misurata and Sirte as well as many inland points in Tripolitania. From 1921 to 1925, military operations were intensified and the whole Fezzan area,

* See note on last page.

area, as far south as Murzuch, was occupied. Active military work had to be carried on in Cirenaica until the final occupation of the oasis of Cufra in 1929.

In addition to the enlargement of the colony by military conquest, four boundary settlements between 1919 and 1935, with States holding adjacent territory, gave Italy the opportunity to practically double the size of her colony. The territory adjustments in question were:

- I Boundary settlement with France in 1919, as a result of the Treaty of 1915, gave Italy a large zone between Gadames, Essi, and Gati on the West and between Gati, Ausi, and Tummo in the south-west corner of the country.
- II The Italo-Egyptian Treaty of December 5, 1925, gave Italy a large zone on the eastern side of the colony including the oases of Giarabub and Cufra.
- III British-Egyptian-Italian Agreement of July 20, 1934, added a large area to the southern end of the colony from Uweinat south to Erdi.
- IV The Rome Accord of January 1935, between France and Italy is reported to have ceded to Italy a large area on the southern end of the colony between Tummo and Erdi.

General Description.

The combined territories which make up the present colony of Libya are estimated to total approximately 677,000 square miles -- nearly six times the size of Italy. It is generally admitted that the only parts of the colony which are habitable and which present any possibility of Italian development are the widely scattered oases along the coast between the Tunisian frontier and the town of Misurata on the western side of the Gulf of Sirte, and a comparatively small area between Barce and Derna on the East -- not a twentieth part of the whole country.

country. All the oases in the interior, with the possible exception of the Garian district, are not considered suitable for the establishment of European communities. Outside the oases, practically the whole country is either a sandy desert or barren, rocky waste lands. The climate along the coast is often damp during the winter months and very hot during the other months of the year. In the foothills of both western and eastern Libya, it is extremely hot in summer while the great desert spaces of the interior have a very unpleasant climate.

The official census taken in December 1935, showed that there were about 900,000 inhabitants in the colony of whom only about 50,000 were Europeans -- almost entirely Italian subjects.

Prior to 1935, Tripolitania and Cirenaica were governed as two separate colonies. Since that date, the country has been divided, for administrative purposes, into five districts with provincial government seats at Tripoli, Misurata, Bengasi, and Derna. The whole southern area of the country is governed as a military zone. The city of Tripoli is now the capitol of the whole colony and the seat of residence of the Governor General.

The two widely separated geographical divisions of the colony are more generally known as Tripolitania and Cirenaica

In the western part -- Tripolitania -- the chief port and city of Tripoli, with a population of about 95,000 inhabitants, is situated near one of the largest oases which is about eight miles long and three miles wide. Other oases, smaller in size, along the coast

are

are at Zuara -- near the Tunisian frontier -- and Homs, Eliten, and Misurata east of Tripoli, all about 30 to 40 miles apart.

Turning to the interior regions, Azizia, Tarhuna, and Gusbat are small centres about 30 miles inland where Italian colonists have attempted -- for about ten years, and without any marked success -- to cultivate open sand lands. Going further inland to the foothills at Garian, the traveler reaches one of the oldest established towns in the country. It is surrounded by some ten square miles of red clay soil where olive trees have been under cultivation for centuries. The community of Tigrinna forms a part of the Garian area. It is composed of a group of some 340 families from Abruzzi, Italy, who are settled on small plots of land under direction of the Italian Tobacco Monopoly. Beyond this point, the oases are separated by great distances. Mizda is a small oasis some fifty miles south of Garian. It is the starting point en route to the great barren, rocky, and uninhabited regions to the south-west. Along the crest of the Garian foothills to the west, small oases are found at Jefren, Giado, and Cabae. At Halut, some 237 miles south-west of Tripoli, on one of the highest points of the Gebel, there is an important military post. South of this point, there are small oases at Sinauen and Berg. Gadames, at the junction of the Algerian-Tunisian-Libyan frontiers, is some 495 miles from Tripoli. Ghat is about 498 miles farther south, at the extreme south-western corner of the colony. Due to the extreme heat, there are no civilian residents in

Gadames and Ghat during the summer months. In the winter, two or three Italian civilians live at Gadames but only military forces are held at distant Ghat.

In the far central region of Tripolitania known as the Fezzan, scattered oases at Murzuch, Sabha, Ubari, Brach, Uaddan, and Hun are occupied by military forces. East of Tripoli along the coast, Homs, Aliten, Misurata, Tauerga, and Sirte are important towns and oases. From Misurata to Bengasi, a distance of approximately 450 miles around the Gulf of Sirte, there is a long barren zone of territory practically uninhabited, and made up in certain regions of sinking bog lands. The town of Sirte, about half way between Tripoli and Bengasi, has been developed into an air and marine base. Soluch, a comparatively short distance south of Bengasi, is used principally as a military distributing centre for points in southwestern Cirenaica. The city of Bengasi is the military and political headquarters of Cirenaica. The desolate waste lands around the Gulf of Sirte continue as far as the village of Tecria, about forty miles along the coast north-east of Bengasi, and run inland until the hills are reached near Barce.

The hills at Barce surround a valley of some ten square miles. This area and that running over the hilly country to Derna is covered with shrubbery. It is one of the few areas in Libya having a light soil instead of sand and rocks. Italian colonists here are from Southern Italy and have been settled at Primavera, Luigi di Savoia, and Giovanni Berta in three small groups by the Fascist Government.

The small city of Derna on the coast is surrounded by an oasis of some four square miles, entirely enclosed by a high stone wall built for defense purposes some twenty-five years ago. From Derna east to the Egyptian border, the landscape again turns to high desolate waste lands, almost uninhabited except for the naval and military forces at Tobruk and Bardia. The region to the south forms a part of the great Libyan desert. Military and air bases are maintained at Mechili and Racheim in the interior, and at Amseat on the frontier. At great distances to the south, the oases of Giarabub and Cufra are held by strong Italian military and air forces.

Political.

Italian residents in Libya agree that subsequent to the Fascist regime, there have been two marked political policies carried out. From 1924, to about 1933, the Italian public was led to believe that Libya contained great natural resources and could be developed into a rich and productive colony for the Motherland. Within the past four years, the colonization scheme in Libya has received much less publicity, and it has gradually come to be recognized that the colony will best serve as a strategic base in Italy's Mediterranean and East African program. Marshal Italo Balbo, the present Governor General, and the first to govern both Tripolitania and Cyrenaica as the colony of Libya, is confining his main efforts toward making Libya an efficient armed base.

Fascist propaganda for years tended to show that a great part of Italy's surplus population could emigrate to

to Libya. High officials now admit that probably the maximum number of Italians who could live in Libya would never exceed 150,000. The final acknowledgement of this fact has undoubtedly influenced the Italian policy in East Africa within the past few years.

It is interesting to note in connection with Italian ambitions in Africa that official wall posters issued and distributed by the Press Bureau for the Tripoli Trade Fair in March 1937, showed a map of Africa with the Italian colors running across the entire north-east corner of the continent covering Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Ethiopia. These posters were given wide distribution in Libya and were received with enthusiasm by ardent Fascist followers.

Premier Mussolini's spectacular tour by automobile and aeroplane across the coastal region of Libya in March 1937, accompanied only by a group of international press correspondents and a few Party officials, is believed to be the beginning of a new colonial policy. The American news correspondents on the tour expressed the opinion to the writer that the Premier's actions and statements while in Libya had indicated to them that he sought publicity principally for his announced new role as "Defender of Islam" and for the greatly increased strength of the Italian armed forces in Libya.

After Marshal Balbo's arrival in this colony, there was a marked change in the immigration policy. Italians were no longer permitted to emigrate from Italy without first receiving permission from the colonial

government -- and permits have been granted with strict control as to numbers and political affiliations of the applicants. There has also been a continuous series of deportations to Italy of those who settled in the colony during the administration of previous Governor Generals. Opportunity was taken during the Italo-Ethiopian conflict to deport nearly all the foreigners in the colony, many of whom had been residents there during the Turkish control.

The comparatively small number of civilians in the country gives the Governor General every opportunity to carry out his plan to make it a truly Fascist colony. Undoubtedly, the strong hand of Fascism is more evident there than in Italy. Every detail of daily life is controlled by the Party and practically every means of existence is restricted to Party members. This, of course, has forced nearly all non-Party Italians and foreigners to leave.

Great attention is given to the careful distribution of official propaganda. The two newspapers published in the country are subject to a strict censorship by the local officials, and any criticism -- either written or verbal -- of Marshal Balbo's administration makes the offender liable to deportation or imprisonment. Private mail, either to or from Italy or other countries, is censored. Italian residents known to have any contact with foreigners, either in or out of the colony, are subject to special surveillance by the secret police. Marshal Balbo himself, however, is always pleased to entertain

lavishly

lavishly any foreign press correspondents who visit the colony, providing, of course, they are known to be favorably impressed towards his colonial activities.

There is no legislative or advisory council in the colony. Full powers rest with the Governor General who rules by issuing decrees and enforcing them. Many Italian laws are enforced in Libya but in most cases, the Governor General applies his own interpretation for local enforcement. This form of Government is a unique dictatorship with the Governor General responsible only to his superiors at home. The Marshal's will in the colony is enforced by the activities of at least five different corps of secret service men and large units of uniformed military police, "Carabinieri". Residents discreetly complain of the espionage and counter-espionage of the various units of police against one another and against the civilian and military population. Needless to say, the residents are in a constant state of terrorism.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 701.1465/3

FOR #652

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Nov. 18, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 ***

REGARDING: Recognition of King of Italy as the Emperor of Ethiopia
by Guatemalan Government on presentation of credentials
by new Guatemalan Minister to Italy.

emc

865D.01/331
f65d.01

ROME, November 18, 1937

No. 652

Subject: Presentation of Letters of Credence by
General Duran Mollinedo, Guatemalan Minister.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that the King of Italy received in audience on November 16, 1937, General Duran Mollinedo, who presented his letters of credence to the "King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia" as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Guatemala. On this occasion the King was presented with the Highest Grade of the Order of Quetzal, as a special mark of distinction on the part of President Ubico.

In commenting upon this fact, the GIORNALE D'ITALIA of November 17, 1937, states that "this decoration is the first conferred by the Guatemalan President and is destined to the Sovereign of Italy, a nation with which Guatemala maintains the best relations."

The ...

The same newspaper announces that on November 20, 1937, the new Guatemalan Minister will be received by the Duce at the Palazzo Venezia. At this time the Grand Cross of the Order of Quetzal will be conferred upon Mussolini "as a special sign of the great sympathy and sincere friendship" of the President of the Republic of Guatemala.

Respectfully yours,

William Phillips.

Copy to
American Legation, Guatemala.

RGM/wrm
701

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 701.60h65/9 FOR #657

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Nov. 19, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 670

REGARDING: Recognition of King of Italy as Emperor of Ethiopia
by Yugoslavia on presentation of credentials by the
new Minister to Italy.

emc

8650.01/322

352

662 A. 61

ROME, November 19, 1937.

No. 657

Subject: Presentation of Letters of Credence by
Mr. Bosko Hristic, Envoy Extraordinary
and Minister Plenipotentiary of Yugoslavia.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 586 of September 28, 1937, I have the honor to inform the Department that Mr. Bosko Hristic presented his credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Yugoslavia to the "King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia" on November 16, 1937.

On the following day the Rome newspapers published a statement made by the new Minister, which, in translation, reads as follows:

"After having the great honor of presenting my letters of credence to your August Sovereign, His Majesty the King and Emperor, Victor Emmanuel III, I am happy to come into contact today with the Italian press.

I ...

I consider it my first duty to express my appreciation for the cordial and kindly welcome which has been extended me in your great and beautiful country, which has, under the guidance of your great leader, Mussolini, achieved in so short a time prodigious progress in all spheres of human activity. I also greatly admire the development and embellishment of your famous capital. I am the more struck by this in that this is not my first visit to Italy, I having been here in 1924 at the time of the signing of the treaty of friendship between our two countries.

As you already know, the Belgrade agreement marked the beginning of a new and fortunate period of friendship, confidence, and good-neighbor relations between us, a thing which corresponds not only to the real interests of our two countries but also to those of peace in general. The agreement signed in Belgrade by your eminent Foreign Minister, Count Ciano, and our Prime Minister, Dr. Stoyadinovitch, marks the valuable continuation of the policy inaugurated thirteen years ago by our two great and illustrious statesmen, Benito Mussolini, and the late Nicola Pachiteh. This policy of friendship and trusting cooperation has already yielded tangible results in all spheres of our mutual relations.

For my part, I desire to assure you that all my modest efforts will work toward the consolidation and development of this policy of friendship and useful collaboration between our two neighboring countries. And for the purpose of achieving that end, I attach very special importance to the valuable cooperation which, I am sure, the Italian press will not fail to give me, and which will greatly contribute toward an increasingly profound mutual understanding and sincere 'rapprochement' between our two peoples."

It has been announced in the Italian press this morning under a Vienna date line that political circles in Belgrade expect the Yugoslav Prime Minister Stojadinovich to leave the Yugoslav capital for Rome on December 3 or 4, in order to repay the visit to Yugoslavia made in March of this year by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count Galeazzo Ciano.

Respectfully yours,

COPY TO
Amr. Leg. BELGRADE.

William Phillips.

RCM/wrm
701.

46501

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 760b.65/760 FOR despatch #35

FROM Yugoslavia (Lane) DATED Nov. 19, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Accrediting of a minister to the King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia, does not, in the opinion of First Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, signify that Yugoslavia recognizes the conquest of Ethiopia.

dg

86501/333

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 740.00/241 FOR Tel. #147, noon

FROM Poland (Biddle) DATED December 11, 1937
TO NAME I-1127 670

865D • 01/2334

REGARDING: Mussolini informed Hitler in reply to memorandum on Halifax-Hitler conversations, that he was not prepared to enter into European political conversations until Abyssinia was recognized, Germany granted colonies, and Franco Government recognized.

j

C

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.65/437 FOR Tel. 531-5pm

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Dec 23, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 SPD

REGARDING: Recognition of the Ethiopian Empire. Italy demanded, in connection with conversation with British Government, the, - but the British Government was willing to grant only as part of a general settlement and insisted as a preliminary condition that there be a cessation of hostile propaganda and among the Arabs in particular.

fp

8650/335

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

EG

1-1836

GRAY

FROM
The Hague



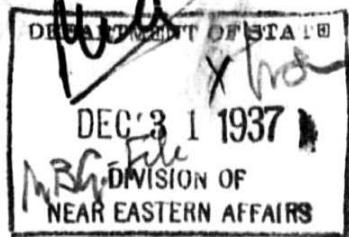
Dated December 31, 1937

Rec'd 9 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

125, December 31, noon.

Despatches covering Foreign Minister's approach to
Oslo Government concerning de facto recognition of
Abyssinian situation have gone forward in this week's
pouch.



GORDON

RR :WWC

JAN 4 - 1937

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

DIVISION OF
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JAN 2 1938
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

✓
~~PP~~
ED

MBo

A portion of this tele-
gram must be closely
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone.

(B)

FROM

Copenhagen (part air)

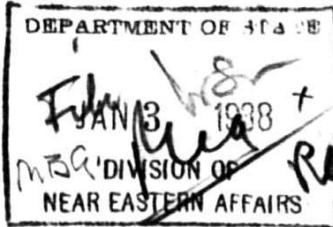
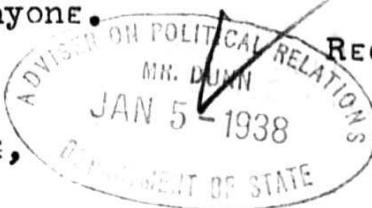
Dated December 31, 1937

Rec'd 6:20 a.m., Jan. 3.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

32, DECEMBER 31, 5 p.m. (GRAY)



Netherlands Government having addressed communication to Danish King requesting Danish Government grant de jure recognition Italy's annexation of Abyssinia, no reply is forthcoming from the Danish Government yet. However, reliable press representative states that Danish Government will refuse such recognition following course of Norwegian Government already published. (END GRAY).

In conversation today with the Netherlands Minister here, Kattendyke, he stated confidentially Netherlands Government is certain to make such recognition alone if not followed by Oslo.

OWSLEY

RR:

365D.01/337

JAN 12 1938

RECORDED

C

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 701.41d65/3 FOR #699

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Dec. 16, 1937
TO --- NAME ---
1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Accrediting of a diplomatic representative by the Irish Free State to the "King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia"; reports regarding same have been confirmed. Delay in appointment may occur due to necessity of having letter of credence of an Irish Free State envoy signed by the King of Great Britain whose Government has refrained from recognizing Italy's Ethiopian Empire.

McO

865D.01 / 333

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 701.2265/4 FOR #701

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Dec. 16, 1937
TO XXX NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Luis Antonio Penaherrera, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Ecuador to the "King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia" will present credentials within a few days. Delay in presentation of credentials was due to non-acceptance of letters addressed to "King of Italy and Emperor". New letters giving full title have now been received by Mr. Penaherrera.

McC ✓

365D.01 / 339

865d.01
339 C

Date to Rome
1/10/38
NE MBG/Sr. *AC*

~~PASS~~ EU

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

JR
DIVISION OF
EUROPEAN POLICY
1-1286
JAN 11 1938
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Secretary of State,

Washington.

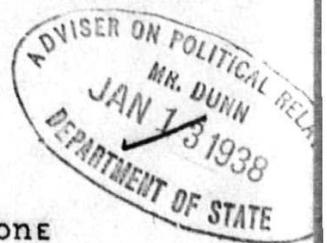
4, January 5, 6 p.m.

GRAY

FROM

Dated January 5, 1938

Rec'd 2:37 p.m.



A communique has been published in the *Informazione Diplomatica* this evening stating that the Italian Government appreciates the move which has just been initiated by the Netherlands Foreign Minister in respect to eventual recognition by the Oslo group of Italian sovereignty over Ethiopia. While declaring that the Italian Government took no part in the Netherlands move the communique states that "Italy cannot but look with favor upon the normalization of diplomatic relations between those countries which do not have a regular representative in Rome".

The states that have already accorded de jure and de facto recognition as well as those who have accredited representatives to the King Emperor are listed. The United States is not mentioned.

PHILLIPS

CSB

JAN 18 1938

FILED

865D.01/340

No. 238

January 13 1938

To the
American Ambassador,
Rome.

The Secretary of State refers to the Embassy's telegram No. 4 of January 5, 1938, and particularly to the penultimate sentence, and requests the Embassy, if it has not already done so, to forward to the Department a copy of the list of states which, according to the official Italian communiqué, have recognized a change in the international status of Ethiopia.

865D.01/340

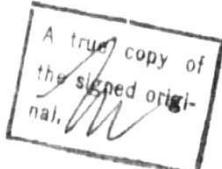
NE: MBG/GC

MSG.

Era

JAN

PW



865D.01/340

CR

JAN 11 1938 PM

WSW

865D .01 / 341

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.65/438 FOR Tel. 2-4pm

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Jan. 4, 1938
TO NAME

1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Existence of Ethiopia as part of Italy. Statement of Count Ciano during conversation with Lord Perth that the British Government would understand that Italy could not be approached intelligently until the British Government had recognized the, -.

fp

Eu
NE

EG

This message must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. (B)

ROME

Dated January 4, 1938

Rec'd 1:40 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2, January 4, 4 p.m.

My 531, DECEMBER 23, 5 p.m.

CONFIDENTIAL

I have learned that on December 23rd the Italian Charge d'Affaires in London called upon Mr. Eden and presented a new Italian proposition which broadens the base of the proposed discussions between the two governments and which is now being given careful study in the Foreign Office. On January second under instructions Lord Perth informed Count Ciano that failure on the part of the British Government to respond promptly must not be taken for indifference on the part of the British Government; two or three weeks delay was necessary in order that the Italian formula might be given the utmost consideration. At this interview Count Ciano had explained that the boundary questions between Ethiopia and the Sudan and certain questions with regard to the Red Sea were after all matters which could be readily adjusted between the two governments but inasmuch

Sect/1919116

as

-2- No. 2, January 4, 4 p.m. from ROME

*Note
1/6/41*

as both related to Ethiopia the British Government would understand that they could not be approached intelligently until the British Government had recognized the existence of Ethiopia as a part of Italy. Lord Perth feels that the frozen positions previously taken by both governments with respect to recognition on the one hand and the cessation of anti British propaganda by the Italians on the other hand had melted somewhat but it was not clear to him as yet just how far the melting process had gone. However, it would appear that the Italian initiative of DECEMBER 23rd is welcomed by the British as a hopeful sign.

PHILLIPS

CSB

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

1-1286

EG

This message must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. (B)

FROM

ROME

JAN 8 1938

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dated January 7, 1938

Rec'd 1:36 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

7, January 7, 6 p.m.

CONFIDENTIAL

In spite of press reports to the contrary I learn
that Vansittart has no intention of coming to Rome at
present.

From a conversation with my British colleague I
gather that among the smaller European countries there
is now a growing desire to improve their relations with
Italy by recognition of the Empire, that this question
will undoubtedly be discussed in Geneva at the time of
the Council meeting but that developments in this
direction depend to a great extent upon the attitude
of the French Government.

PHILLIPS

CSB

JAN 13 1938

RECEIVED



865D.01/342

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

TCA

LC

RTP

DMC

IDH

PM

Netherlands Proposal to Extend
de facto Recognition to Italian
Sovereignty over Ethiopia.

U - Mr. Welles.

Foreign Minister Patijn has confirmed to Minister Gordon that he has proposed to the other Oslo Governments that they agree ~~in~~ in principle to accrediting envoys to "The King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia", while at the same time restricting their action to the extension of de facto rather than de jure recognition of Italian sovereignty over Ethiopia.

Dr. Patijn said that his action was spontaneous and not inspired by Italy. However, he had been officially informed in conversations with Italian representatives that if he would accredit an envoy to the King-Emperor the Italian Government would not cavil at his ~~x~~ stating in the Dutch Parliament that such appointment meant nothing but de facto recognition; and that equally Italy would ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ be disposed to accept a letter of credence which on its face recited similar restrictions upon recognition.

Dr. Patijn said that though ~~he~~ officially he had not been informed of any change in the Italian attitude just described, he had reason to believe that Italy might become more exigent if his negotiations did not reach a favorable conclusion in a relatively short time.

Denmark and Norway at present have ~~Ministers~~ Ministers in Rome and are, therefore, not particularly interested. Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Finland, however, are at

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

present represented only by Charges d'Affaires a.i. and are interested in the development of a formula which will permit them to send Ministers to Rome, and at the same time not repudiate the League of Nations' position with regard to Italian ~~recognition~~ annexation of Ethiopia.

Dr. Patijn said that none of the Oslo Governments have rejected his idea, though those with Socialist inclinations had to move cautiously. Norway had been least sympathetic, possibly because she had no need at present of accrediting a Minister to Rome, and Dr. Patijn thought that Foreign Minister Koht of Norway had been responsible for the press learning of the confidential negotiations. (Since the despatch was written, the press in Washington have stated that Norway has rejected Dr. Patijn's proposal).

Dr. Patijn said that Foreign Minister Spaak of Belgium, who was personally sympathetic to the idea and was trying to bring his party around, had said to him "Il faut en finir avec cette farce-la".

*He
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unning*
The Netherlands press has been, for the most part, unenthusiastic over the proposal and regretful that the Netherlands should have taken the initiative.

a Catholic paper in Rotterdam alone approves the idea, but does so without enthusiasm.

1st.

PM.



No: 109

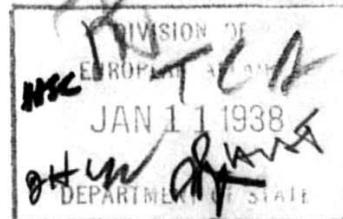
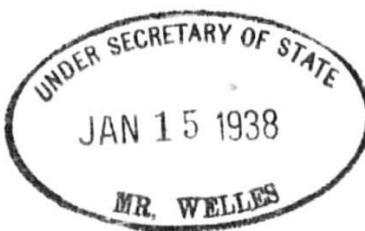
LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
The Hague, Netherlands,
December 22, 1937.

*MR-D
A-116
NE*

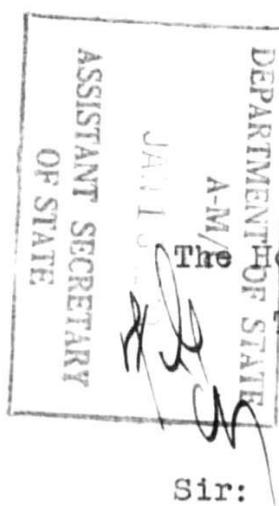
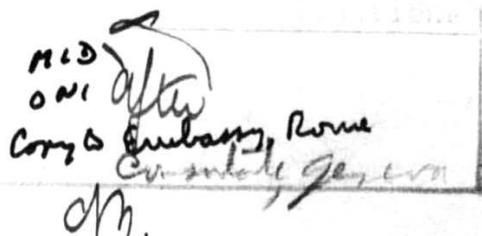
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS' INITIATIVE FOR FINDING SUITABLE
MEANS OF ACCREDITING NEW ENVOYS TO ITALY.

1938 JAN 10 AM 11 35

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

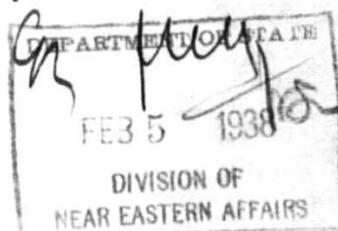


Copy in Eu-Int.



Copy Transmitted by The
Commercial Office (A-M/O)
To *Rome*
General
1/19/38
Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:



*t
10.1.5665*
I have the honor to report that yesterday a
member of the Legation staff, in the course of a
conversation with an official of the Political De-
partment of the Foreign Office, made inquiry con-
cerning a report that had appeared in the NIEUWE
ROTTERDAMSCHÉ COURANT, and other newspapers, of
that day. The report in question was to the effect
that the Netherlands Government had approached the
various States belonging to the Oslo Group, with

regard...

FEB 8 - 1938

FILED

365D • 01 / 343

regard to drafting a formula which would make it possible for those States at present represented in Italy by Chargés d'Affaires ad interim to accredit Ministers - in the case of Belgium an Ambassador - to the Quirinal.

The Foreign Office official stated that the press report referred to was correct in substance and that the Netherlands Government, or rather Dr. Patijn, had taken the initiative vis à vis the States of the Oslo Group with a view to having this question settled. He observed that the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and Finland, due to the fact that they have no Ministers in Rome and cannot accredit any until the question of to whom letters of credence shall be addressed is cleared up, are particularly anxious that a way may be found to accept the Italian demand that all letters of credence be addressed to "The King of Italy and Emperor of Abyssinia", and at the same time not repudiate the League of Nations' position with regard to the Italian annexation of Abyssinia. The other two Oslo countries, Denmark and Norway, have at present Ministers in Rome and therefore are not particularly interested.

This official further observed that up to date the matter had gone no further than the holding of conversations. He said that he has no idea how the matter will work out but that Dr. Patijn is particularly keen to find a formula whereby the Netherlands,

without...

without going back on the League of Nations, can accept the Italian demand for Empire recognition in letters of credence and send a Minister to Rome. Dr. Patijn is apparently of the opinion that this country is losing much by not having a Minister in Rome.

Today I called upon Dr. Patijn and asked him if he would give me a correct version of his approach to the other Oslo Conference Governments, concerning which various accounts had appeared in the press of the last two days.

Dr. Patijn confirmed that he had taken the initiative in sounding out the other Oslo Governments and had proposed that they agree to the principle of accrediting envoys to the King of Italy and Emperor of Abyssinia, while at the same time formally restricting any recognition of the annexation of Abyssinia which might be implied from such action to a de facto rather than a de jure recognition.

I inquired of the Foreign Minister in just what manner he proposed to draw such a distinction so clearly that even Italy could not claim a de jure recognition from the accrediting of envoys in the fashion demanded by her, and whether such a distinction and restriction of recognition would be satisfactory to Italy. Dr. Patijn in reply said that he first should tell me that the reports that his action was taken at the request

or...

or suggestion of Italy were quite erroneous and that such action was quite spontaneous. However, in discussing the matter with representatives of the Italian Government, he had been officially informed that if he would accredit an envoy to the King-Emperor, the Italian Government would not cavil if he were to state in the Dutch Parliament that such accrediting could and did mean nothing but a de facto recognition that authority over and in Abyssinia is actually exercised by the Italian Government, and that equally the latter Government would be disposed to accept a letter of credence which on its face recited similar restrictions upon recognition.

At this point I asked Dr. Patijn if he felt that Italy would remain in this frame of mind if his negotiations did not come to a successful conclusion in a relatively short time, to which he replied that it was true that he had some reason to believe that Italy might become more exigent, though officially he had not been informed of any change in its attitude as he had just described it to me.

Dr. Patijn said that while none of the Oslo Governments had rejected the idea, those in which Socialist influence was greatest were naturally most hesitant; for instance, the Belgian Government naturally had to move cautiously in the premises, though he said that when he had talked the matter over with Spaak, the latter was personally fully in agreement with the idea ("Il faut en...")

en finir avec cette farce-là", Patijn quoted Spaak as saying to him) and was doing what he could to bring his party around to his point of view.

Dr. Patijn felt that the Norwegian Foreign Minister had been chiefly responsible for the press learning of what had been intended to be confidential negotiations, and I also gathered from his manner that the Norwegian Government - which, as indicated above, has at present no need of accrediting an envoy to Rome - had perhaps been the least sympathetic to his proposal. In any event, Dr. Patijn affirmed in conclusion that the question was still an open one and that discussions were continuing with the five Governments concerned.

Respectfully yours,

George A. Gordon.
George A. Gordon.

File No. 701

In quintuplicate.
GAG/JWB/mm.

P.S.

December 27, 1937.

During my conversation with Dr. Patijn above set forth, he said that a Communist member of the Second Chamber had interpellated him in the premises, and that he intended to make a brief written reply from which it would appear that what he had in mind was a recognition of the existing state of fact and not a condonation of Italy's action in overrunning Abyssinia. This reply has now been published, and, together with the interpellation, is transmitted herewith in translation.

Enclosure
as stated.

J. A. F.

(over)

P.P.S.

December 28, 1937.

Again since writing the foregoing, there has been published a further interpellation in the premises by Mr. Albarda, the Leader of the Social Democratic Labor Party in the Second Chamber, together with the Foreign Minister's reply thereto, which are herewith enclosed in translation.

f.a.f.

✓ Enclosure
as stated.

American Legation,
The Hague, Netherlands,
December 27, 1937.

SOURCE: OFFICIAL.

Translation from "proceedings of the Second Chamber".

QUESTIONS submitted under date of December 22, 1937 by
Mr. Wijnkoop (Communist member of the Second Chamber).

Is it true that the Netherlands Government has taken the initiative or steps in inducing the so-called Oslo States or at least some European Governments to recognize Italy's sovereignty over Abyssinia?

If this is so what is the reason that the Netherlands Government has taken such initiative while the great Powers which are members of the League of Nations thusfar always have refused such recognition because of the disadvantages attached to it?

Is not the Government of the opinion that, as the people of Abyssinia against its will has been deprived of its right of self-determination, such action on the part of the Netherlands leads to it that the independence of the small or weak States will be imperiled more than ever?

REPLY of Dr. Patijn, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
(submitted December 24, 1937)

Some time ago the Government submitted to the Governments which have signed the Oslo Convention the confidential question whether they would feel inclined to take steps collectively with the Governments of Great Britain and France regarding the recognition de facto of the Italian occupation of Abyssinia. It was intended to ask the latter Governments whether they would feel inclined to proceed to this recognition and inform them that the Governments of the Oslo-States were planning to do this.

Not all of the Governments which were asked have determined their point of view. The consultation on this matter is still in progress.

The reasons which have moved the Netherlands Government to proceed to it are the following. The Italian occupation is a fact. By recognizing this fact the point of view adopted

at...

at the time by the Government with regard to the war against Abyssinia is in no way abandoned. By the non-recognition the relation in respect to Italy, where the Netherlands is still not represented by a Minister, is injured. At the moment when the question was submitted to the other Oslo States Italy had not resigned as a member of the League of Nations and the Government cherished the hope that a recognition as intended might cause Italy to remain in Geneva. As must be assumed, the accomplished fact will have to be accepted some day. Contrary to the thought which seems to be fundamental in the question asked, the Government is not of the opinion that this must be delayed until the great Powers have given the example for it feels on the contrary that this would be less compatible with the national dignity.

Nor can the Government admit that its action would imperil the independence of small States. The latter has happened by the conquest which the Government has been unable to prevent. The Government fails to see that the acceptance of the fact of the conquest to which fact, as appeared from the abolition of the sanctions, also the League of Nations had to resign itself, would have detrimental consequences for other States.

American Legation,
The Hague, Netherlands,
December 28, 1937.

SOURCE: OFFICIAL.

Translation from "proceedings of the Second Chamber".

QUESTIONS submitted under date of December 23, 1937 by
Mr. Albarda, Leader of the Social Democratic Labor Party in
the Second Chamber.

1. If it is true that the Government entered into consultation with other Governments in order to remove certain difficulties with Italy is the Minister prepared to state which Governments he has approached with that purpose?
2. If these Governments do not include those of Great Britain, France and other nations which are members of the League, why did the Minister suppose that there was no need to comprise those in the consultation?
3. Is not the Minister of the opinion that the matter on which he entered into consultation should be treated collectively with all those Governments with which the Netherlands Government followed the same line of conduct in the League of Nations with regard to the Italian-Abyssinian conflict?
4. Has the initiative for the Minister's move been taken independently by the Netherlands Government or has it been the result of some request of the Government of Italy?
5. If the Minister merely had in view the purpose of being able, in common consultation with other Governments, to meet the Italian Government's desire that in the letter of credence of a Minister the title of Emperor of Ethiopia will be mentioned, is the Minister of the opinion that this title can be used without thereby recognizing de facto Italy's sovereignty over Abyssinia?
6. Does not the Minister suppose that the recognition of the conquest of Abyssinia would conflict with the moral principles which are incorporated in the Covenant of the League of Nations, and that such a recognition, without a resolution of the League of Nations, would damage the prestige of the Netherlands and also would conflict with the sentiments of the large majority of the Netherlands people?

REPLY of Dr. Patijn, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
(Submitted December 27, 1937)

1. As regards the reply to this question, I may refer to the statements made on December 24, 1937 in replying to the questions regarding this matter asked by Mr. Wijnkoop, member of the Second Chamber of the States General.

2. The Government felt that it had to commence by consulting the Oslo States as to approaching the Governments of France and Great Britain.

3. A treatment, as suggested in the third question would mean again raising the subject for discussion in the League of Nations. Apart from the delay which would have resulted therefrom, the consideration also prevailed that by the abolition of the sanctions the obligations under the Covenant of the League of Nations were exhausted in this case.

4. The initiative for the steps in question has been taken entirely independently and without any influence of third parties.

5. Undersigned is of the opinion that the use of the title need not imply the recognition of the sovereignty. Meanwhile it is intended to recognize the accomplished fact.

6. The recognition of this fact cannot be in conflict with any moral principle. If the undersigned were of the opinion that the recognition would damage the prestige of the Netherlands he would not have taken any steps in order to attain it.



No.

117

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICAThe Hague, Netherlands,
December 29, 1937.SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO NETHERLANDS' INITIATIVE
FOR FINDING SUITABLE MEANS OF ACCREDITING
NEW ENVOYS TO ITALYRECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1938 JAN 10 AM 11 51

DIVISION OF
POLITICAL AFFAIRS
EUROPEAN GROUP✓
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01/344

The Honorable

The Secretary of State, JAH 120 1938
Washington.

Sir:

Reverting to the Legation's despatch No. 109, of December 22, 1937, I have the honor to summarize briefly the reaction of the Netherlands press to Foreign Minister Patijn's initiative vis à vis the States of the Oslo group, with regard to the drafting of a formula which would make it possible for those States at present represented in Italy by Chargés d'Affaires ad interim to accredit Ministers - in the case of Belgium an Ambassador - to the Quirinal:

The...

ATTACH

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The local newspapers have followed the matter carefully, and the reception accorded Dr. Patijn's initiative, not only in the States of the Oslo group but in other countries as well, particularly in Great Britain and France, has been given much space and prominence. In addition, a number of articles with comment as well as editorials have appeared; they have been, for the most part, unenthusiastic over the proposal and at the same time regretful that Dr. Patijn should have seen fit to take the initiative.

The Socialist VOORUIT, as was to have been expected, is absolutely opposed to the Netherlands taking any action that might be construed as even tacit recognition of the Italian annexation of Abyssinia. This newspaper, in an editorial dated December 22, after severely criticizing the step taken by Dr. Patijn "entirely on his own initiative", observes that even conservative members of the States General have at times raised their voices to warn the Netherlands against taking too prominent a part in the work of Geneva.

"What Dr. Patijn is now attempting", continues this newspaper, "cannot in any way be construed as the strengthening of international law. The little Netherlands is taking the initiative in a step which it is hoped will give the usurper of Abyssinia the official recognition which he so passionately desires.

Even if one feels that the recently created situation will have to be accepted one day, it is not for the Netherlands to pull the chestnuts out of the fire on behalf of other countries. Dr. Patijn's initiative will result in the Netherlands becoming involved in a critical situation."

The Liberal ALGEMEEN HANDELSBLAD, which is published
in...

in Amsterdam, in its issue of December 22, recognizes the importance of the step taken by Dr. Patijn, but at the same time believes that other States belonging to the Oslo group are not particularly interested. This newspaper questions whether the Netherlands should have taken the initiative.

"The news that Dr. Patijn has taken the initiative in this matter has not been received by everyone in the Netherlands with the same degree of enthusiasm. There are not many Netherlanders who are prepared to condone the wrong committed by Italy in 1935 and 1936. Therefore, only a few Netherlands will evince enthusiasm for Dr. Patijn's step."

The TELEGRAAF, of Amsterdam, in an article in its issue of December 21, is noncommittal, and so is the NIEUWE ROTTERDAMSCHÉ COURANT in an editorial in its issue of December 23 and in an article the following day. Only the Catholic MAASBODE, of Rotterdam, approves, albeit perhaps reluctantly and without enthusiasm, the conversations now taking place between the different States of the Oslo group, for the normalization of their diplomatic relations with Italy, and the initiative taken in the matter by Dr. Patijn. In its issue of December 23, this newspaper writes in part as follows:

"Frequently great wisdom consists in choosing the least of two evils, and we are now convinced that the liquidation of the difficulties with Italy is to be preferred to the continuation of a situation which is bound to lead (sic) to the most atrocious war in the world's history. It is for this reason that we hold the view that the Netherlands Government did well to take, and is continuing to take, the initiative. It is a question of saving all that can be saved."

Respectfully yours,

George A. Gordon.
George A. Gordon.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 701.1765/1 FOR Tel. #1 9am

FROM Nicaragua (Long) DATED Jan. 10, 1938
TO NAME 1-1127 ero

REGARDING: Recognition of Italian King as Emperor of Ethiopia
by Nicaragua will take place upon appointment of
new Nicaraguan Minister to Italy. Comment in this
regard.

emc

✓

865D.01/345

G
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EG

A portion of this message Managua
must be closely paraphrased
before being communicated to anyone. (C) Dated January 10, 1938

Rec'd 12:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

RUSH

1, January 10, 9 a.m.

(GRAY) CONFIDENTIAL

Inquiry at the Foreign Office revealed that Nicaraguan recognition of the Italian King as Emperor of Ethiopia may take place shortly when the new Nicaraguan Minister to Italy presents his credentials. Nicaragua is very anxious to have a minister in Rome on account of coffee trade troubles, the importance of which was emphasized in the Minister's instructions. It was stated that his credentials were made out "to the Italian Government" but that it is presumed he will have to comply with Italian requirements when presenting them, which may mean recognizing the Italian position in Ethiopia. It was also stated that Nicaragua is not concerned about the form of presentation and is deeply concerned in having a minister in Rome to protect the important coffee interests.

The

-2- No. 1, January 10, 9 a.m. from Managua

The report transmitted in my telegram Number 186 dated DECEMBER 27, 3 p.m. may have been the outcome of (END GRAY) somebody's deductions from a rumor concerning the above forthcoming event coupled with the coincidental shipment of an order of arms purchased (repeat purchased) by Nicaragua from Italy, which is due to arrive the 10th or 11th.

(GRAY) The above account of the matter, which is complete in essentials, will be supplemented by airmail despatches 787 and 788 which should arrive in Washington Tuesday morning. Subsequent to the writing of these despatches a brief telegraphic news despatch from ROME was published in local newspapers stating that the appointment of a Nicaraguan Minister to Italy is there interpreted as recognition by Nicaragua of the Italian conquest of Ethiopia.

LONG

RR:CSB

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 701.5565/3 FOR #108

FROM Belgium (Gibson) DATED Dec. 18, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 ***

REGARDING: Recognition of Italian conquest in Ethiopia by Belgium: Question
of whether same is implied by address of letters of credence of
new diplomatic representative to "the King of Italy and Emperor
of Ethiopia".

✓

emc

865D.01/346

865d.01
946
C

Brussels, December 18, 1937

No. 106

Subject: Belgian diplomatic representation in Italy

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that during the discussion of the Ministerial declaration of the new Jansen Government in the Senate, Count d'Aspremont Lynden, Catholic, raised, among other questions, that of Belgian diplomatic representation in Italy. He pointed out that Prince Albert de Ligne had returned from Italy on leave some months ago and had since retired, and that it was therefore urgent that

the . . .

the Belgian Government appoint a new Ambassador to Italy. He pointed out that the difficulty lay in the requirement of the Italian Government that the letters of credence of any newly appointed Ambassador be addressed to "the King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia." He raised the question as to whether this was not merely a question of words and whether it really implied any sense approval of the conquest of Ethiopia.

He said that if the situation was allowed to drag on indefinitely there is always the danger of Belgium being at a disadvantage in its dealings with Italy. Even among States belonging to the League of Nations there is a peculiar inequality of status. Great Britain, for instance, by the simple expedient of retaining her Ambassador, had avoided raising the question of letters of credence and thus continued to enjoy full representation. Other countries have taken or are contemplating measures to restore normal relations. It is important that Belgium should not, through insistence on an outworn formality, jeopardise her own interests.

Count d'Aspremont Lynden added that he was not advocating approval of the conquest of Abyssinia but that Belgium had already sent a consul to Addis Ababa, accepted by the Vice-Roy. The League Powers had also signed the Treaty of Nyon with the plenipotentiaries of the King of Italy, Emperor of Abyssinia.

In view of the foregoing, he asked the Government to examine the method of dealing with this irregular situation.

Respectfully yours,

LUGH GIBSON

q.m.
File No. 701
HG/afh

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 701.2265/5 FOR #722

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Dec. 23, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Letters of credence of new Ecuadoran Minister to
Italy addressed to "King of Italy and Emperor of
Ethiopia".

emc

365D.OI / 347

No. 722

ROME, December 23, 1937.

Subject: Ecuadorian Minister presents credentials.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Supplementing my despatch No. 701 of December 16, 1937, I have the honor to report that Mr. Luis Antenio Peñaherrera presented on December 22, 1937, letters accrediting him as Minister of Ecuador to the King of Italy, Emperor of Ethiopia.

Respectfully yours,

William Phillips.

ELR/amc

701



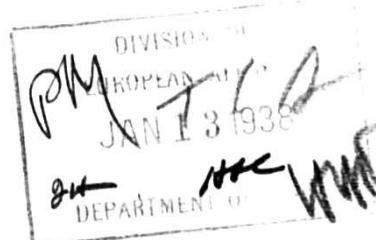
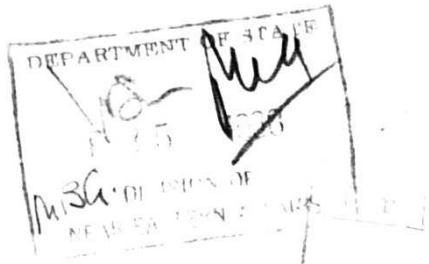
LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 135

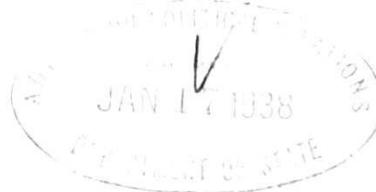
Stockholm, December 29, 1937.

Subject: The Oslo Powers and Ethiopia.

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Counselor, General



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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
15 JAN 12 PM 2 45

SECRETARY
OF STATE

Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to lay before the Department as a side light upon Swedish opinion and Swedish foreign policy the substance of an article appearing in the NYA DAGLIGT ALLEHANDA (Conservative, Stockholm) of December 23, 1937, entitled "The Oslo Powers and Ethiopia" and commenting upon the Dutch initiative for the recognition of the Italian conquest of Ethiopia.

The Netherlands Government, the writer states, has taken the initiative toward bringing about the recognition of Italian supremacy in Ethiopia by the Oslo Powers. The Swedish Government has stated that it has expressed certain opinions

365D.01/248

DEC 7 - 1938

opinions to the Netherlands Government and the desire to continue in touch with the other Oslo Powers so far as this matter is concerned. The Norwegian Foreign Minister has been less reticent and has let it be known that he considers the present moment inopportune for an appeal to the Great Powers. The writer feels that this question has been much in the minds of the Great Powers previous to this demarche by the Netherlands Government and that the Far Eastern situation has impressed them with the importance of bringing about a conciliation between the two Great Power Groups in Europe. Lord Halifax' visit to Germany and M. Delbos' tour in Eastern Europe are, the writer feels, two phases of the matter and he regards the invitation from the Hague Government as a third. He further feels that it would be exceedingly difficult, especially for Great Britain, which stood in the forefront of the League action and the sanction measures against Italy to take the initiative for the recognition of the Italian conquest and that in searching for an agency less involved and less anti-Italian to act for the Western Powers the Netherlands has been chosen, the Netherlands being that member of the Oslo Group which on account of the Dutch East Indies has good reason to cultivate friendly relations not only with Italy but especially with Italy's confederate - Japan. Cooperation with Great Britain for the protection of the Dutch East Indies and the British Domains in the East is an excellent reason why the Netherlands should be obliging to Great Britain.

The writer continues that the Netherlands Government

has

| has surely weighed matters carefully and found that
Holland's interests were somewhat greater than those
of the sacred and international order of justice. Holland,
he feels, observes that the measures taken to safeguard
the international order of justice have failed and that
the whole question of the League is now without practical
importance; that Italy will not return Ethiopia to Haile
Selassie and will continue her course whether her conquest
is recognized or not.

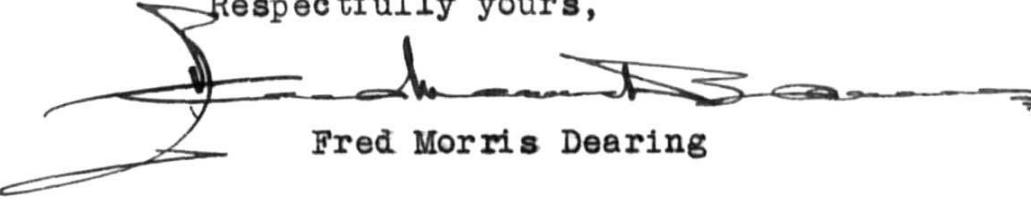
The question is not quite so simple, however, for
the other Oslo Powers. These, the writer thinks, have
every reason for staying with the League as long as
possible and there is no incentive for them to recognize
a conquest accomplished merely by strength and force. The
next conquest, he feels, may even concern one of the Oslo
Powers. Not one of them, he states, has any direct
interest in Eastern Africa, that is Ethiopia, but never-
theless for idealistic reasons they took part in the
sanctions against Italy notwithstanding the great economic
sacrifices involved. What they wished to do was to assist
in the effort to put a term to the conquering lust of a
Great Power and they underlined more firmly than anyone
else the sanctity of international obligations. Yet here
they are invited to take part in a measure solemnly con-
firming an act of international injustice. No, the writer
concludes, let us keep some vestage of honesty and right.
The Oslo Powers have but one course to follow - that of
an international order of justice. They did not initiate
the sanctions against Italy, it does not rest with them
to initiate a retreat from their previous stand. Those

✓ who

who should make a beginning towards the recognition of Italy's supremacy in Ethiopia and the handling of the questions growing out of it are the Great Powers who now wish to compose differences in Europe in order to be in a better position to meet the difficulties arising in China. They from the beginning have been the ones responsible.

The Swedish Government's statement concerning its position in view of the Dutch Government's demarche is merely an act of international politeness but it must not and cannot be interpreted as expressing any hesitation as to the Swedish policy. The Swedish nation, the writer maintains, is not willing to sacrifice its ideals or its opinions for the sake of Great Power interests and it may be presumed that this is also the attitude of the Swedish Government.

Respectfully yours,



Fred Morris Dearing

In quintuplicate

File No. 800

FMD:EJ

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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ROME, December 31, 1937.

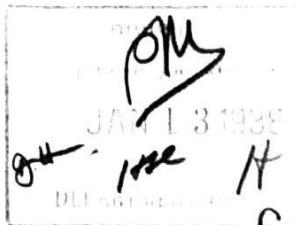
No. 734

Subject: Italian Press reaction to Dutch move toward
recognition of Abyssinian conquest.

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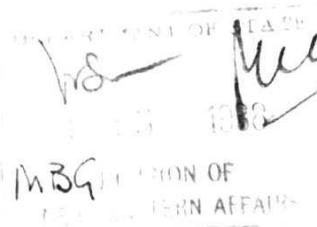


Copy in En-
velope

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.



Sir:

I have the honor to report that the Italian press in general while devoting considerable space to the recent statements of Dr. Patyn, the Dutch Foreign Minister, concerning the possibility of recognizing the Abyssinian conquest, has not indulged in much editorial comment. The general tendency has been to reproduce Dr. Patyn's remarks verbatim, particularly emphasizing those in which the conquest of Abyssinia was described as an accomplished fact, and to praise the realism and good sense shown by Holland.

The POPOLO D'ITALIA, however, Signor Mussolini's paper, managed to link up the question with the Bari anti-British broadcasts. The remarks of Dr. Patyn, stated

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865D.01/349

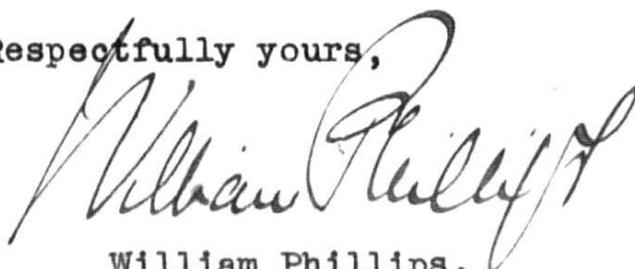
HEB 7 - 1938

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the POPOLI, openly and clearly admitted the necessity for recognizing the Italian conquest of Ethiopia in order to improve relations with Italy. That was the main point, continued the POPOLI, and it was not the Bari broadcasts or polemics in the Italian press that obscured the horizon. The Bari broadcasts merely stated facts, while if the Italian press was violent, the British press was equally so. In short, the Italian press merely reflected an actual situation. The real issue at bottom, concluded the POPOLI, was the refusal in certain quarters to recognize the legitimate colonial interests of Italy and the conquest of Ethiopia which was an accomplished fact.

As of possible further interest in connection with the possible recognition by Holland of the Abyssinian conquest, it is reported that Count Ciano two days ago in conversation with a reliable foreign press correspondent, said that he was very pleased with the Dutch initiative, that he had expected it, and that although Dutch recognition was not an accomplished fact, he was confident that it would be so very shortly.

Respectfully yours,



William Phillips.

PA., WEDNESDAY

Il Duce Has U. S.-Italian

Trade Talk

Hull Refuses to Recognize Victor Emmanuel as Emperor of Ethiopia

FORMULA TO CIRCLE STALEMATE SOUGHT

**Washington Cites Rome's
Other Treaties Omitting King's Rank**

Washington, Jan. 11 (AP) — The

United States' refusal to recognize

King Victor Emmanuel of Italy as

Emperor of Ethiopia has resulted

in suspension of the Italo-American

negotiations for a commercial

treaty.

Informed sources said Mussolini

required the new treaty to be made

in the name of Victor Emmanuel

as King of Italy and Emperor of

Ethiopia and that Secretary of

State Hull refused.

Negotiations, they said, would

now lapse for some months, during

which the situation may be clari-

fied.

The stalemate occurred suddenly

when negotiations were proceeding

excellently. Practically all obstacles

had been removed and the two

countries had already agreed to an

ad interim understanding, an-

nounced last month, whereby Italy

retreated from her closed economy

position to the traditional most-

favored-nation treatment.

Officials here are at a loss to

understand Mussolini's insistence,

in view of the fact that commercial

treaties were made by Italy with

other countries in 1936 and 1937

without bringing in Victor Em-

manuel's rank as Emperor of

Ethiopia.

Mussolini now demands that the

preamble to the treaty specifically

state that Foreign Minister Count

Galeazzo Ciano is making it in the

name of his Imperial Majesty,

Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy

and Emperor of Ethiopia. It would

also be signed by Ciano as the

representative of the King and

Emperor.

The United States, it is learned,

tried through Ambassador Phillips

in Rome to insert in the treaty a

paragraph to the effect that the

United States's signature of the

pact was not to be construed as a

recognition, *de facto* or *de jure*, of

the Italian Ethiopian Empire. Mus-

solini refused.

It was hoped here that some

formula might be found to get

around the stalemate. The precedent

was cited for the accrediting of

Ambassador Phillips to Italy in

1936, and of Ambassador Fulvio

Borghese to the United States.

On that occasion the customary

approval of Phillips

by the United States to

Emmanuel, without

his title of Emperor,

was given in the

King and Emperor.

5
RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1938 JAN 13 Hon. Cordell L. Hull
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

DIVISION OF
TRADE AGREEMENTS
TA C. C. BOWMAN
110 WILLIAM ST.
PITTSBURGH, PA.

JAN 19 1938

January 12th, 1938.

My dear Secretary:
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS

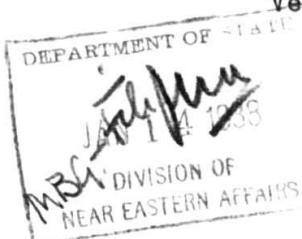
AND RECORDS Enclosed please find clipping from the Wilkes-Barre Record issue of Wednesday morning, January 12, 1938. You deserve much credit for failing to recognize Victor Emmanuel as Emperor of Ethiopia, also for the wisdom displayed in the negotiations you have made in connection with trade agreements.

If convenient kindly remember me to Rep. Doughton to whom the writer is under many obligations in connection with my election and service in Congress.

Very truly yours,

C. C. Bowman

ccb/e
Enc.



JAN 20 1938

FILED

January 18 1938

In reply refer to
NE 865D.01/350

Mr. C. C. Bowman,
119 William Street,
Pittston, Pennsylvania.

Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 12, 1937, commenting favorably upon certain details of the Department's policies as reported in the press. These expressions of support are much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Wallace Murray,
Chief, Division of Near Eastern Affairs

JAN 18 1938 PM

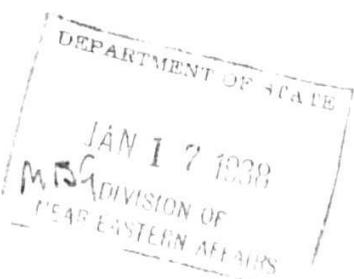
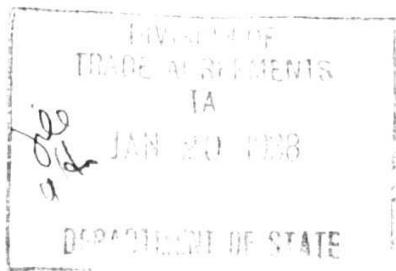
NE MBG/EG

January 14, 1938.

Allow me to congratulate the State Department on its decision to continue to refuse to recognize, even by implication, the Italian conquest of Ethiopia. May I also urge the necessity of refraining from signing any trade agreements with Germany, Italy, and Japan, the aggressors who are ^{now} endangering our peace. Why not use trade pacts as a democratic instrument for guaranteeing these friendly-baiting nations? We must not yield to these fascist countries on any point lest we encourage them to ravage more territory.

Morris U. Schappes.

Ans. d. 1/18/38
NE-MB/C
A/E
T/T



865D.01/351

JAN 21 1938

PURGED

C

Morris U. Shappes
469 West 113 Street
New York, N.Y.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



1938 JAN 15 AM (Secretary of State) Cordell Hull

Washington, D.C.
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

January 20 1938

In reply refer to
NE 865D.01/351

Mr. Morris U. Schappes,
469 West 143rd Street,
New York, New York.

Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your communication of January 14, 1938, commenting favorably on certain details of the Department's policies. These expressions of support are much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Wallace Murray
Chief, Division of Near Eastern Affairs

NE: MBG/GC
MBG Mura

JAN 20 1938.

865D.01/351

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 701.3365/6 FOR #128

FROM Uruguay (Reed) DATED Jan. 4, 1938
TO NAME 1-1127 esp

REGARDING:

Recognition of Italian sovereignty in Ethiopia by Uruguay: Hesitancy in appointment new Minister to Italy due to issuance of credentials to the King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia. President not averse thereto, but Minister of Foreign Relations objects.

emc

865D.01/352

RECD. 01/C
3-5-2

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 500.C 00 1/1317

FOR Desp. #181

FROM Finland (Schoenfeld) DATED Dec. 22, 1937.
TO NAME 1-1127 670

REGARDING:

Annexation of Ethiopia by Italy. Minister Holsti referred to press reports recently published here regarding an alleged Demarche by the Netherlands Government, on behalf of all the so-called Oslo Convention States, to the British and French Governments looking to the recognition of the -.

865D.O 1/352 N1

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N1

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

365D.01/353

SEE 817.24/361 Confidential File FOR Des. #787

FROM Nicaragua (Castleman) DATED Jan. 8, 1938
TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Recognition of Ethiopia.

Quotes a telegraphic despatch from Rome as published in a local newspaper to the effect that Rumania has recognized the Italian Empire on accrediting its new Minister to the King Emperor. It also stated several American countries will recognize the Empire, among them be Venezuela, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

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DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 871.4016 Jews/53 FOR Tel. 6- 4pm

FROM Rumania (Gunther) DATED Jan. 8, 1938
TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Italian conquest of Ethiopia. Both the British and French Ministers have definitely opposed the recognition by Rumanian Government of Italian conquest of Ethiopia by the appointment of a new Rumanian Minister to King of and the Emperor of Ethiopia.

3650.01/254

fp

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 858.00 P. R./260 FOR Despatch #136

FROM Swaden (Dearing) DATED Dec. 30, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Italy's supremacy in Ethiopia. Press telegram from the Hague published in Stockholm papers stated that the Netherlands Government had taken the initiative towards bringing about joint action on part of so-called Oslo Powers in an endeavor to induce the Western Powers to recognize, -.

fp

865D.01/35G

1. THE OSLO POWERS AND ITALY:

A press telegram from The Hague, published in the Stockholm newspapers on December 22, stated that the Netherlands Government had taken the initiative toward bringing about joint action on the part of the so-called Oslo Powers in an endeavor to induce the Western Powers to recognize Italy's supremacy in Ethiopia.

The Swedish Foreign Office, when approached in the matter by the T.T. News Agency, stated that as a result of a proposal made by the Netherlands Government for the purpose of facilitating diplomatic relations with Italy, the Swedish Government had thus far merely expressed certain opinions in the matter to the Netherlands Government and a desire to communicate with the other Oslo Powers in order to ascertain their attitude toward the proposal. (See the Legation's despatch No. 135 of December 29, 1937.)



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ROME, January 7, 1938.



No. 742

Subject: Recognition of Italian Sovereignty
over Ethiopia.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1938 JAN 29 PM 2 15

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

The Honorable

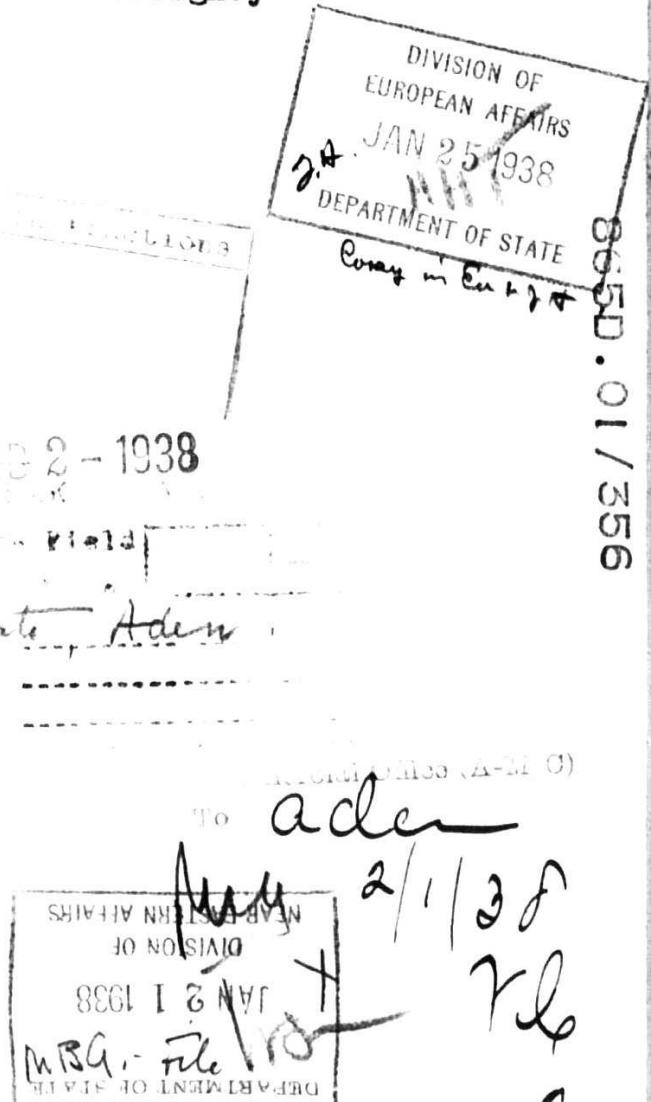
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to my telegram No. 4 of January 5, 6 p.m., I have the honor to quote below the text of the communiqué published in the INFORMAZIONE DIPLOMATICA No. 11 on January 5, 1938:

"The initiative of the Netherlands Government for the recognition of Italian sovereignty over Ethiopia and the declarations with which Mr. Patiyn has recently explained the matter are considered in responsible Italian quarters as proof that it is possible to clarify and simplify

this



992/10-01

this problem when it is raised, on the basis of reality and good sense, as the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs has done.

"The Italian Government, as has been noted, is an absolute stranger to the Netherlands initiative. It is not the practice and it is not the intention of the Italian Government to solicit from anyone under any form the recognition of the Empire; but as is natural, it has always shown itself appreciative of amicable gestures, of which this recognition has spontaneously offered proof, and for its part (Italy) cannot but look with favor upon the normalization of diplomatic relations between those countries which do not have a regular representative in Rome.

"There are, besides, numerous states which in Europe and outside of Europe have proceeded formally to de jure recognition of the Empire and have accredited their representatives in Rome to the King of Italy, Emperor of Ethiopia, and have recognized the exercise of our sovereignty over the territory of the former Abyssinian Emperor.

"De jure recognition of the Empire has been made formally by the following countries: Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Albania and Spain, and outside of Europe, by Japan, Manchukuo and the Yemen, to which states Poland may be added since this country has stated at Geneva that it considers the Italo-Ethiopian question as closed.

"The following countries have accredited their representatives in Rome in the name of His Majesty the King of Italy, Emperor of Ethiopia: Chile, Panama, Guatemala, Ecuador, Ireland and Nicaragua.

"Other states have informed the Italian Government that they are disposed to do so in the near future.

"The following countries have recognized de facto the exercise of Italian sovereignty over the territory of the former Abyssinian Emperor: England, France, Belgium, Greece, Bulgaria, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Iran, Peru and Haiti.

"As will be seen, the problem which, due

to

to the much appreciated initiative of the Netherlands Government, is today being discussed among the Powers of the so-called Oslo group, is to be considered as in great part resolved, and if there are states which do not believe themselves in position to confront and resolve this question, this will not be considered an affront to Italy."

I have talked with some of my colleagues and foreign newspaper correspondents here and I find them in general agreement that the communique has no especial political significance. It merely serves to show the Italian Government's conviction that the question of recognition is not entirely theoretical since a large number of states have taken steps to acknowledge what is already a fact.

In this connection the GAZZETTA DEL POPOLO in commenting on this communique on January 6, 1938, states in part:

"Italy does not hold it necessary that any country should recognize the Empire. Such necessity might have existed while Italy was a member of the League of Nations and in fact the Fascist Government conditioned its return to activity within the League upon the question of League recognition, or at least upon the declaration that Tafari be declared to have ceased to exist as Emperor of Ethiopia, but now that Italy is outside the League, these reasons are lacking.

"The communique in the INFORMAZIONE DIPLOMATICA does not solicit recognition from anyone but exposes clearly and serenely the Italian attitude toward this question and shows how Italy considers the Netherlands initiative. The number of states that have recognized the Empire de jure is continually increasing. It is superfluous indeed to add that the absence of any pre-occupation arises also and principally from the fact that fascist Italy is fully equipped to defend the Empire against any and all possible foreign aggression and that the internal situation, far from being upset as is periodically announced in certain

malicious

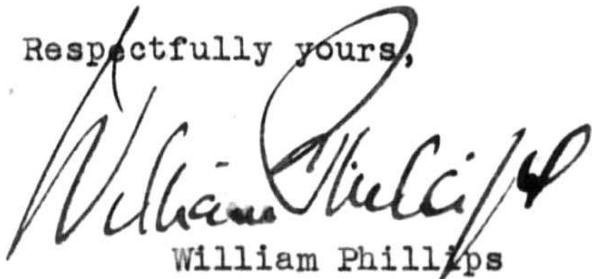
malicious foreign newspapers (the specific reference here is probably to a letter which appeared in the London TIMES on January 4 from the Times Gibuti correspondent): it is peaceful and may easily be controlled in any event by the armed forces which have been placed in various centers.

"Certainly we are grateful and obliged to those who have recognized the Empire, but we will not cry, much less live in anxiety over those governments who have not yet decided.

"The communique furnishes also in a certain way a timely opportunity to verify the international situation given the importance which has been attributed to recognition of the Empire among the complex questions which arise in relations between European states. The communique gives to the question of recognition its real value without stressing its significance but without underrating its importance."

The Department has already been informed in my despatch No. 741 of January 7, 1938 that the day following the publication of the communique, Rumania officially announced its intention to accredit its new Minister to the King Emperor.

Respectfully yours,



William Phillips

~~PA-D-~~

~~Mr. A~~

U
M. Wells

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

January 25, 1938

~~JH~~
~~TEET~~
~~LC~~
~~RPT~~
~~PM~~

**Netherlands Initiative to Find
Means of Accrediting New Envoys
To Italy**

There has been considerable discussion in The Hague as to how fully Foreign Minister Patijn's denial that his action was instigated by Italy should be accepted. While he continues to deny unequivocally that Italian initiative had anything to do with his action, it is possible that a good deal of indirect personal suggestion had been brought to bear upon him - in this connection it is noted that he was recently Minister at Rome, and while there he and his wife are reported to have been considerably influenced by Mussolini.

During several hours of debate in the First Chamber Dr. Patijn made the interesting statement that the fundamental reason for his initiative was not the disadvantage of having no Minister in Rome, but rather a desire to lessen the general tension in Europe. While this statement has led to speculation as to whether some Power other than Italy, England for example, was behind the Dutch initiative, Government and other well informed circles insist that this is not the case.

Dr. Patijn recently told Mr. Gordon that since the original inopportune disclosure of his negotiations came from an anonymous article appearing in the weekly HAAGSCHE POST

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

-2-

of December 18, and is now known to have been written by the French Socialist deputy Solomon Grumbach, he presumed that he must draw the inference that the French Socialists were doing what they could to obstruct his efforts. In any event Dr. Patijn did not see how there could be any chance in the near future of France being willing to accord to Italy the recognition she desires. The French Government had confined itself to asking Dr. Patijn to give it reasonable advance notice should the Netherlands determine to accord de facto recognition.

Dr. Patijn said that he had no definite or official news as to the reports of increasing British inclination to accord recognition, but felt that the British Government would like to take this step as soon as it could be done without causing too great a shock to public opinion.

DR. Patijn is optimistic of gaining eventual Belgian support for his proposal, as well as that of the other Oslo governments. (Reports from Oslo, Copenhagen, and Helsinki, seem to indicate that, for the present at least, Dr. Patijn is somewhat too optimistic. The Northern countries are believed to be awaiting some move by England or France, and unwilling to take any initiative themselves, either individually or as a group).

Mr. Gordon does not believe it probable, though possible, that the Parliamentary ~~Ex-Government~~ attacks on Dr. Patijn will continue to the point of forcing his resignation.

Press comment in the Netherlands appears to be in the main against Dr. Patijn's

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

-3-

proposal, with a limited scattering of luke-warm or reluctant approval.

W.C.
Eu:Cumming

PM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
January 28, 1938

In connection with the enclosed, it may be interesting to note that Grumbach, a member of the Chamber of Deputies, is not only a French Socialist but is known to be one of the senior members of the French Secret Service and has the most intimate dealings with the Quai d'Orsay. During the war, as a German Speaking Alsatian he played a prominent part in secret service operations against Germany, and at the present time he is used to leak information which the Quai wishes to become public.

rtp

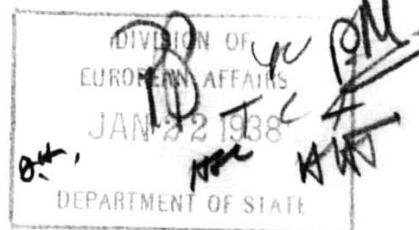
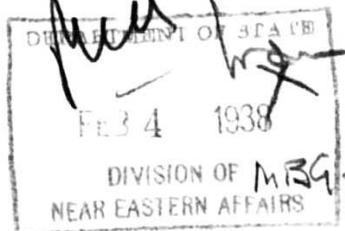


No. 135

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Hague, Netherlands,
January 12, 1938.

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS INITIATIVE FOR FINDING SUITABLE
MEANS OF ACCREDITING NEW ENVOYS TO ITALY



CONFIDENTIAL AS NOTED

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1938 JAN 21 PM 12 14

DISSEMINATIONS
COMMISSIONERS
RECORDS

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Legation's despatches Nos. 109
and 117³⁴³ of December 22 and 29, respectively, dealing with
the above-mentioned subject, I have the honor to report
that yesterday afternoon in the First Chamber the leader
of the Social Democratic Labor Party, K. Vorink, inter-
pellated the Foreign Minister upon his approach to the
other Oslo Conference Governments with respect to recog-
nition of the Italian occupation of Abyssinia.

This interpellation was a much more substantial mat-

ter...

865D.01/357

FILED

FEB 7 - 1938

matter than the exchange of written questions and replies on the occasions of the interpellations of the Communist and Social Democratic members of the Second Chamber, Wijnkoop and Albarda, reported in the postscripts to my despatch No. 109. As an accompaniment to his formal questions, Mr. Vorrink spoke at some length in criticism of the Foreign Minister's action, to which Dr. Patijn replied, in addition to submitting his formal answers to the interpellation. Various other members of the First Chamber then joined in the debate which lasted for several hours, and during the course of which the Foreign Minister felt called upon to reply to more than one of his critics. The formal questions and answers of Mr. Vorrink and of the Foreign Minister, together with a summary of the debate, are transmitted herewith as enclosures. From a perusal thereof it will be noted that during the course of the debate the Foreign Minister made the interesting statement that the fundamental reason for his initiative was not the disadvantage of having no Minister at Rome, but rather a desire to lessen the general tension in Europe. This passage has naturally already led to speculation as to whether some Power - other than Italy - England, for instance, was behind the Dutch initiative, but Government and other well-informed circles continue to insist that this is not the case.

Confidential

Quite aside from yesterday's interpellation, Dr. Patijn's action has naturally been the subject of much animated discussion...

discussion during the past fortnight and there has been considerable speculation as to how fully his denial that his action was taken at the request or suggestion of Italy should be accepted. Some are completely sceptical in the premises, while others accept Dr. Patijn's statement as made in complete good faith, and it must be noted that the Foreign Minister continues to this day to asseverate unequivocally that Italian initiative had nothing to do with his action. In between there is the view that while there are perhaps no traces of official Italian initiative, it is probable that a good deal of at least indirect personal suggestion had been brought to bear upon Dr. Patijn; in this connection it is claimed that while he was Minister in Rome both he and his wife were considerably influenced by Mussolini, and it is even alleged that Madame Patijn was particularly in favor of his taking this present step.

In a recent conversation with me the Foreign Minister said that, inasmuch as the original inopportune disclosure of his negotiations in the weekly HAAGSCHE POST of December 18 - reproduced two days later in the NIEUWE ROTTERDAMSCH COURANT - came from an anonymous political commentator whom even the POST no longer denied was the Socialist French deputy Solomon Grumbach, he presumed he must draw the inference that the French Socialist Party was doing what it could to obstruct his efforts. (On the other hand, a prominent and well-informed Dutch newspaper man has stated that he knows that Grumbach received a large sum for this article and that he wrote it for this reason alone; this informant felt sure

that...

that if French Socialist politics were behind it, he could not have failed to know it. The Patijn version of the matter seems the more plausible.) In any event, in view of present Franco-Italian relations, quite aside from the composition of the present French Government, he did not see how there could be any chance in the near future of France being willing to accord Italy the recognition she desires; the appointment of M. de Saint-Quentin as Ambassador in Washington tended somewhat, he thought, to confirm this view. All the French Government had said to him in the premises, Dr. Patijn added, was to ask him to give them reasonable advance notice if the Netherlands Government reached a decision to accord *de facto* recognition.

As to reported increasing British inclination to accord recognition, Dr. Patijn said that he had no definite or official news, but that his feeling was that the British Government would like to take this step as soon as it could be done without causing too great a shock to public opinion.

As regards Belgium, Dr. Patijn said that in spite of Socialist opposition, as particularly exemplified by M. Vandervelde, he had good hopes that the Government would ultimately pronounce itself in favor of his proposal. In conclusion the Foreign Minister said that conversations with the Oslo group Governments were still continuing and that on the whole he thought the chances were in favor of his plan eventually meeting with approval.

In connection with the foregoing concluding remarks, it should be noted that in some circles here it is felt that
when...

when the Second Chamber reconvenes the attacks upon Dr. Patijn will be resumed with increasing intensity, to the point even where his resignation may be brought into question. In reporting such expressions of opinion, I think I should add that I am not inclined to agree therewith, as while such a development is of course possible I do not consider it probable.

Respectfully yours,

George A. Gordon
George A. Gordon.

File No. 701

Copy to:

Embassy London	Legation Oslo
Embassy Paris	Legation Stockholm
Embassy Rome	Legation Copenhagen
✓ Embassy Brussels	Legation Helsinki

✓ Enclosures:

1. Interpellation
2. Summary of Debate

In quintuplicate

GAG/ekd

*Hansard P. 1
2000-08-01*

American Legation,
The Hague, Netherlands,
January 12, 1938.

SOURCE: TELEGRAAF, Evening
Edition, January 11, 1938.

TRANSLATION

MR. VORRINK'S INTERPELLATION IN THE FIRST CHAMBER

Mr. Vorrink's Formal Questions.

1. If one adopts the point of view, as the present Cabinet does, that the Netherlands in international policy must content itself with a modest part, must not the move made vis-à-vis the Oslo States be regarded as conflicting with this point of view?
2. What practical difficulties are a consequence of the fact that the Netherlands is represented in Rome only by a Secretary of Legation? Are these difficulties greater or of a nature other than for countries which are in similar circumstances?
3. Suppose that the Oslo States should have agreed to the Netherlands initiative, how did or how does the Minister exactly envisage the form of the diplomatic procedure vis-à-vis the governments of Great Britain and France?
4. Has the Government adequately realized the impression which the initiative in question would make upon the native population of the Overseas Territories?
5. Has not the Minister, when he stated that after the abrogation of sanctions obligations under the Covenant of the League of Nations were exhausted, overlooked the League's resolution of 1932 not to recognize a conquest by violence, as well as the tenor of the wishes expressed in the meeting of the League of Nations of July 1936?
6. Is not the Minister of the opinion that the granting of a title never can have the significance of a recognition de facto but on the contrary must be regarded as a typical recognition de jure?
7. Must not the assertion made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in his reply of December 27, last, to Mr. Albarda's questions, that a recognition of a fact cannot be in conflict with any moral principle, be considered as contradictory with the basic principles of the present Cabinet?
8. Does not the action which certain States, not members of the League of Nations, are conducting against the League and its principles imply an incentive to those States which are members of the League to maintain as vigorously as possible the principles of the League and not to allow themselves to be intimidated by this action?
Is not the Netherlands initiative in the present matter incompatible therewith?

Minister Patijn, beside whom Dr. Colijn occupied a seat on the Government benches, gave the following formal reply.

1. The move toward the Oslo States was calculated to result, in collaboration with these States which in recent years have been customarily consulted on all points involving common interests, in steps vis-à-vis France and Great Britain with a view finally to achieve a regularization of relations with Italy. I do not agree that this would go beyond what the Netherlands can permit itself in the domain of international policy. The cooperation with the other Oslo States which was sought in this matter surely shows the absence of any tendency to push ourselves to the fore.
2. Here there is the question of the same practical difficulties which lead every nation to assign diplomatic representatives of higher rank as heads of Missions in foreign countries and not to content themselves with having these posts filled by Secretaries of Legation. It is hard for the Government to judge whether the difficulties resulting from the lack of a Minister in Rome are greater for the Netherlands than for countries which are in similar circumstances.
3. The procedure with regard to the governments of Great Britain and France and the precise form thereof naturally depend upon the results of the consultation which is now in progress with the Oslo States.
4. The Government can hardly believe that its initiative would make an undesirable impression upon the native population of the Overseas Territories, and so far there is nothing from which this would appear.
5. The Government is prepared to recognize an undeniable fact (that of the occupation of Abyssinia by Italy and the Italian supremacy over the former country). The Government's intention has no wider scope. In determining its attitude it took fully into account all pronouncements of meetings of the League of Nations which might apply to the matter.
6. The significance of granting a title to the Head of a foreign State is determined by what the government which grants the title thereby intends. It may be merely a matter of courtesy, it may also signify a recognition de facto or a recognition de jure. Therefore the granting of a title is not a typical recognition de jure.
7. As the recognition of a fact does not imply moral approval of the acts which led to the creation of the fact, the recognition lies beyond the domain of moral principles. It therefore cannot be understood how such a recognition may be regarded as being contradictory to the basic principles of the present Cabinet, the more so as by abstaining from the recognition one does not cause the fact to be undone.
8. The Government is of the opinion that it is its duty to maintain the principles of the League of Nations wherever this is possible. The initiative of the Netherlands Government in the present matter does not conflict therewith.

American Legation,
The Hague, Netherlands,
January 12, 1938.

SOURCE: TELEGRAAF - Evening
Edition, January 11,
1938.

TRANSLATION.

SUMMARY OF THE DEBATE.

Mr. Vorrink's explanatory remarks.

In commenting on his questions, Mr. Vorrink said that in the exchange of views on the subject between the Second Chamber and the Minister the latter had been rather sphinx-like. Speaker wished to know whether the Minister had already taken steps vis-à-vis the Oslo States before the budget debates took place in the Second Chamber when the Minister said that he was meditating means of improving the situation. Is it possible that Dr. Colijn, as Minister of Foreign Affairs ad interim, took the initiative in this matter already at the end of September? There is also a reason now for uneasiness about a change in our foreign policy. Speaker mentioned in this connection the sensational interview with Dr. Colijn on New Year's eve, concerning the position of the League of Nations. The Netherlands cannot permit itself an adventurous policy which the Minister admitted when he said that we, as a small nation, must be cautious in our foreign policy.

Speaker failed to understand why we are in such a hurry to recognize the Emperor of Ethiopia. It is known that a persistent guerilla war is in progress in Abyssinia and that authority there can be only maintained by means of violence. The statutes of the annexed territory have not been defined yet and Italy even feels in favor of Hailie Selassie's return under certain conditions. Abyssinia is still a member of the League of Nations and internationally there is no single reason for proceeding to the recognition of the Empire.

Also nationally, in our own interest, there is no single reason for the Netherlands to make such haste.

The Netherlands is not the only country having no Minister in Rome. The Netherlands has to avoid, above anything else, a cooling off in the relations with Great Britain and France, the Powers to which we will in all probability have to appeal should we be menaced at any time. The Netherlands must not do anything that might

hamper...

hamper France and Great Britain in their struggle against the extortionist policy of the fascist States. The radio propaganda of Italy in Arabia and of Germany in the Netherlands Indies should not be underestimated and the Government will have especially to watch the Netherlands position in the Indies: an Oriental people has been attacked by a western nation and what will the native people in our Indies say were we to recognize this violence?

It is conceivable that an international criminal desires to obliterate as soon as possible the recollection of an unlawful conquest and therefore is trying hard to obtain official recognition. A de facto recognition cannot always be avoided but the title of Emperor for Italy's King would, nevertheless, imply a recognition of the juridical principles. The Netherlands would hereby sanction the occupation of Abyssinia.

It may be stated that the Netherlands initiative has met with a cool reception in the other Oslo States. It is indeed strange that a small country like the Netherlands wishes to lead in a policy which purports to bring the western and northwestern democracies on their knees before fascism. Speaker said he did not understand the point of view of our Government with regard to the principles of international law, which he condemned, and he said that the Netherlands is apparently slipping into the morass of scepticism with regard to the League of Nations.

TELEGRAAF - Morning Edition, January 12, 1938, (Parliamentary Editor).

Dr. Patijn's remarks on the Abyssinian question in the First Chamber on January 11, 1938.

The Minister stated that the outline given by the interpellator of the preliminaries was no more in agreement with the reality than many other views. The sounding of the Oslo States was not an official step. That is why speaker had to be somewhat sphinx-like in the Second Chamber. It was not Dr. Colijn who sounded the Oslo States; it did not happen that long ago.

The title of Emperor already dates back from nearly two years ago. Should a de facto recognition be decided

on...

on there is no question of a break with our traditional policy. Why should we, with our 70 millions of people, wait for permission from Great Britain and France? A strong policy of independence has always been pursued by us.

There really is a factual Empire in Abyssinia and one cannot always simply refuse to see such a fact. Minister Sandler has also recognized already that Abyssinia no longer exists. The paper of interpellator's party wrote in the same sense as early as August 1937.

We still recognize the Spanish government though the rule there is not very real anymore.

As to the progress of the correspondence with the Oslo States which is still going on the Minister could not make any statements at present. There is no question of a put-up job with France for instance.

There is no need to fear an unfavorable impression in the Indies. There was no evidence of it. There is no controversy here between white and colored people for Abyssinia has been conquered mainly by colored troops.

The present League of Nations is no longer like it was in 1932. Since then quite a few things have happened.

Professor de Savornin Lohman: That is true!

Together with the other so called ex-neutral states - the Minister continued - the Netherlands made in 1936 the well known reserve with regard to all obligations under the Covenant of the League.

The Netherlands never accepted the unhappy thought of the Stimson doctrine. One should not attach too much value to a title; the former Portuguese kings called themselves also "Seigneur de la conquête de la navigation et du commerce de l'Ethiopie." (Hilarity) So a number of double titles are known in history.

Neither a recognition de jure, nor a recognition de facto imply a moral approbation. As regards the former one thinks of greater stability. Here there is only the question of a sober matter of fact establishment of a factual situation of the moment.

One must not confuse sentimental considerations with principles. What the Netherlands Government would like to do is not in conflict with Christian principles. It would be untrue to refuse to see the reality, the Minister concluded.

Mr. Vorrink, in his reply, regretted that the Minister did...

did not wish to say more about the negotiations. On the part of Norway and Finland a fair amount of publicity has already been given to this matter.

Speaker furthermore believed that the matter should have been dealt with by the League of Nations, which is also the opinion of France and Great Britain. The resolution of 1932 still exists and there is occasion to discuss the reorganization of the League, but we must not anticipate thereon now by a recognition. The initiative of the Netherlands Government has made an unfavorable impression from the point of view of national and international law. The injustice to Abyssinia certainly has not come under the Statute of Limitations, and speaker did not recognize the imperative necessity of having a Minister in Rome.

While the Government is now aiming at a recognition de facto what would still have to happen before there might be question of a recognition de jure? Why have we not, after 20 years, recognized Soviet Russia yet?

Finally the interpellator hoped that the Government would make no haste in cutting off contact with other nations, and that a possible solution will be found in cooperation with all States of the League of Nations which participated in sanctions and in the maintenance of the condemnation of Italy's act pronounced in October 1935.

Professor Anema (Anti Revolutionary Party) stated that, according to the Government, recognition de facto is a provisional and recognition de jure a definite recognition; but this causes much confusion. There is no doubt that under international law there is really the question of a recognition de jure. Does this mean an approval of former facts? No, the Netherlands only wants to maintain normal relations with Italy and therefore to consider the King of Italy as the present sovereign of Ethiopia. Whether this sovereignty has been lawfully acquired does not matter here.

Since the war the recognition-doctrine has been considerably altered. Think of the Stimson doctrine, of the declaration of the League of Nations in 1932. We have a network of legal and moral obligations, be it with many loopholes, and the matter has become ever more complicated. Every system of law has a way out to cover the case when an injustice must be accepted.

Speaker was however of the opinion that the Minister acted somewhat too rashly with regard to the annexation of Abyssinia and asked whether the moment had come already to consider the injustice committed as a closed matter?

A...

A reserve will have to be made in any case with the recognition. In view of the many difficulties speaker would have preferred if the Netherlands had not taken the lead. The national interest is not preponderant. Legally and morally it is a very delicate question. Now that the Government has taken the initiative speaker urged the greatest caution.

Prof. de Savornin Lohman (Christian Historical) said that this recognition cannot be put on a par with that of Russia where Satan sits on the throne. Mr. Vorrink's opposition is not consistent for the Social Democrat Labor Party has from the first urged a recognition of the Soviet Government and the admission of Russia into the League of Nations.

Speaker called the distinction made by the Government between recognition *de facto* and recognition *de jure* rather subtle.

He also objected to the fact that the Government by its move puts our country somewhat too much to the fore and asked whether it would not have been much simpler if we had, without consulting the Oslo States, sent a Minister to Rome?

Prof. van Embden (Liberal Democrat) did not think the moment opportune. It is doubtful whether Italy dominates the whole of Abyssinia, and the condemnation by the League of Nations is still too recent. Italy is guilty of six breaches of promise and must we now crown all this by an imperial crown? We shall only irritate Great Britain and France, and the United States just as much. Minister Patijn's initiative also weakens the prestige of the League of Nations. What our Government is now preparing is really a recognition *de jure*, a moral sanction. Will our Minister in submitting his letters of credence make an explicit reserve with regard to the conquest? Of course not. The Government will cause detriment to the dignity, security and sense of law of our country. Speaker finally hoped that the Minister may discontinue his efforts and steps.

After the three professors had spoken, Mr. van Lanschot (Roman Catholic) wished to make only some simple remarks. Parliament should be very careful in judging the foreign policy of the Government. Public utterances are so easily misinterpreted.

The occupation of Abyssinia has become a reality, a fact the recognition of which does not imply a juridical or moral condemnation of what happened there.

Why should the restoration of normal relations with Italy not be in the interest of our country? The friends of the League of Nations should be careful and avoid the formation of an anti-fascist bloc.

Ideological...

Ideological controversies must not be aggravated.

Finally, speaker regretted the condemnable indiscretion shown in the publication of the Government plans. If this publication had not taken place Italy perhaps would not have left the League of Nations.

Mr. van Vessem (National Socialist) said that the sovereignty over Abyssinia is an accomplished fact which finally should be accepted. He thought it was strange that the Netherlands Government did not approach the Italian Government but the so-called Oslo States. These democratic countries form an ideological front north and west of a friendly neighbor state. These political ties with the marxist North may become a danger to the Netherlands. And why does our Government seek to approach Great Britain and France in the second place? Speaker was puzzled and wondered how the Netherlands came to mix itself up in the foreign policy of large Powers.

Why did not the Netherlands protest against the recent occupation of Arabia by Great Britain?

Will the Netherlands take steps in any case to recognize Italy's sovereignty over Abyssinia, even if Great Britain and France refuse to join?

- - - -

Minister Patijn, in his reply, pointed out that for eight years we have been in contact with the Oslo States. The commercial agreement only forms part thereof. Vis-à-vis Italy the Government meant to confine itself to what the Netherlands wishes and to what is necessary, and that is the factual recognition. Explicit recognitions of occupations are hardly ever strictly required but in this case the Italian Government made a certain condition for accepting a Minister.

The sense of justice has nothing to do with it. While determining its attitude independently the Netherlands Government can just as well consult France and Great Britain.

Since the abrogation of sanctions the League of Nations is out of the question. We shall have to adjust ourselves to the new situation. He who refuses to do this runs the risk of causing accidents.

The question of Ministers only most recently has been a factor in favor of the Netherlands initiative. The primary intention was to contribute to some appeasement in the tension of international relations.

The Government does not disguise from itself the fact that there may be sentimental objections but finally it will have to be recognized that the intention of the Government will only serve the real interest of the country.

MR. ...

Mr. Vorrink, speaking for the third time, naturally was dissatisfied with what the Minister had said and disappointed with the course of the debate. He regretted that the action will not be discontinued, and hoped that the Minister would reconsider the arguments which he heard this afternoon.

Hereupon the interpellation was closed and the meeting adjourned until Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock.

865d.01

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.942/2 FOR Tel. #536, 6 pm

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Dec. 30, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 gpo

REGARDING:

Agreement supplementing the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Italy and Japan signed Dec. 30, 1937, is proof that the countries which recognize the empire of Ethiopia will in their turn be allowed to trade there.

ge

865D.01/358

TL
EU
NE
TA

EG

GRAY

ROME

Dated DECEMBER 30, 1937

Rec'd 2:43 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

536, DECEMBER 30, 6 p.m. 11.65 2/132

My telegram 497, December 3, noon.

It is officially announced that an agreement supplementing the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Italy and Japan was signed here today. While the contents of this supplementary agreement are not divulged, apparently inspired comment published in this evening's papers state that the new agreement is proof that the countries which recognize the Empire of Ethiopia will in their turn be allowed to trade there. From this it can safely be inferred that the agreement provides for extension of the existing treaty with Japan to include Ethiopia. We are asking the Foreign Office for a copy.

*Note
8/5d. 01*

PHILLIPS

CSB

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 760p.65/3 FOR Tel. #3, 4pm

FROM Latvia (..... Packer) DATED January 20, 1938.....
TO NAME 1-1127 SPO

REGARDING: Recognition of Italy's Ethiopian conquest by Latvia.

Foreign Office informs that recognition is not being contemplated.

hc

365D.01/359

3 59

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

January 25, 1938

~~JH~~
~~HMT~~
~~PM~~

**Finnish Attitude to Recognition of
Italian Annexation of Ethiopia**

Up to December 30 no reply had been published to a telegram received by President Kallio from Haile Selassie regarding the Netherlands' demarche.

There is no indication of any change in the Finnish attitude towards recognition of the Italian annexation as previously stated to Minister Schoenfeld by Foreign Minister Holsti, namely, that Finland would probably follow the lead of the British and French Governments in this matter.

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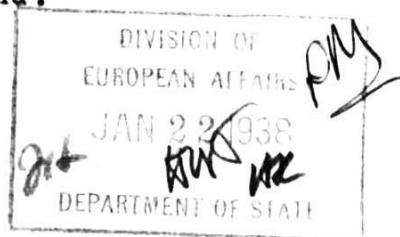
LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 186 (Diplomatic) Helsinki, December 30, 1937.

Subject: Annexation of Ethiopia by Italy. - Telegram from Haile Selassie to President Kallio of Finland.

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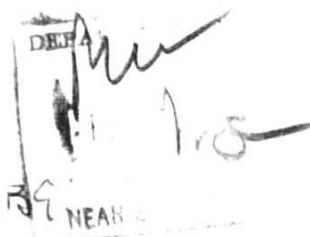


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JAN 27 1938



FEB 8 - 1938

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The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch no. 181 of December 22, 1937, in which reference was made to the reported inquiry by the Netherlands Government of the other so-called Oslo Convention States as to the expediency of asking the British and French Governments to indicate their policy regarding the recognition of the assumption by the King of Italy of the title of Emperor of Ethiopia, and the statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that newspaper reports describing this inquiry were misleading,

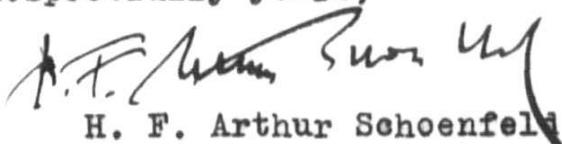
I

I have the honor to inform the Department that the local press on December 29 published a translation of a telegram from London stated to have been addressed by the former Emperor of Abyssinia, Haile Selassie, to the heads of the governments of the Oslo States, including President Kallio, and to the following effect:

"I have learned with concern that the Oslo States, on the proposal of Holland, are about to grant de jure recognition of the Italian annexation of Abyssinia. Although the League of Nations was shown to be incapable of preventing the contemplated annexation, it has nevertheless been able, to the advantage of peace, to maintain the vital principle that the annexation shall not be recognized. The Abyssinian people definitely refuses to submit to the Italian power. In the name of my people I appeal to Your Excellency (Majesty) that your Government may stand fast on the traditional policy in defense of international right."

In view of the statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to me, as reported in the despatch above mentioned, that Finland would probably follow the lead of the British and French Governments in this matter, it is assumed that any reply which may be made by the Finnish President to the telegram above quoted will be in conformity with this position. Thus far no such reply has been published here on the part of the Finnish Government, but the press this morning prints, perhaps as a precedent, the text of a telegram said to have been sent by the King of Norway to Emperor Haile Selassie indicating that the Norwegian Government has not changed its policy of non-recognition of the annexation.

Respectfully yours,


H. F. Arthur Schoenfeld



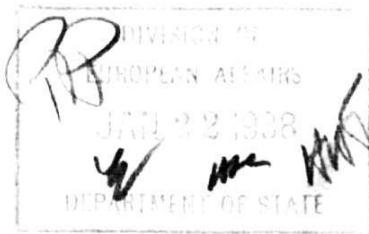
No: 141

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
The Hague, Netherlands,
January 13, 1938.

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO NETHERLANDS INITIATIVE
FOR FINDING SUITABLE MEANS OF ACCREDITING
NEW ENVOYS TO ITALY.

1938 JAN 21 PM 1 49

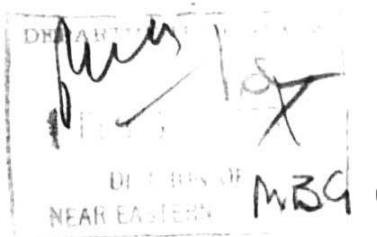
U.S. GOVERNMENT
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS



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JAN 28 1938



The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Adverting to the Legation's despatch No. 117,
of December 29, 1937, I have the honor to report that
the local press continues to give considerable prominence
to news pertaining to Foreign Minister Patijn's
initiative vis-à-vis the States of the Oslo group,
and particularly in the last two days to the debate
thereon which was held in the First Chamber on January
11 (see despatch No. 135 of January 12). Press comment
has, however, not been very plentiful, having been
limited...

FEB 8 - 1938

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limited to four editorials - two in the VOORUIT, the Social Democratic organ, and one each in the liberal NIEUWE ROTTERDAMSCHÉ COURANT and ALGEMEEN HANDELSBLAD.

The first VOORUIT editorial, which appeared on January 10, last, was before the interpellation of Mr. Vorink, the President of the Social Democratic Labor Party. This editorial looks forward to the interpellation which, in its opinion will give members of the First Chamber, and through them the public at large, an opportunity to express their views on an important international issue.

"We feel that this is of the utmost importance, because there is an increasing tendency to acquiesce with equanimity in all sorts of things which would formerly have caused a commotion but now are accepted more or less resignedly as we are living in an age rich in evil.

Such a mentality must be opposed by everybody who desires to promote a sound psychology among our people. It is a mental 'défaitsme', a paralysis which threatens to eat like a cancer into the sense of equity. The usurpation of Abyssinia, as a military act, has aroused the abhorrence of the entire civilized world. It was, moreover, a serious transgression of international law, notably of the Covenant of the League of Nations, the maintenance of which is also the duty of the Netherlands. The arm of justice unfortunately was not strong enough to avert these crimes. The world will have to acquiesce in Italy's domination of Abyssinia for the time being. Minister Patijn feels that we should take a further step, and that it is proper for us to unchain an action among the Oslo States with a view to moving the civilized nations to bend their knees before the Imperial Crown that has been obtained in such a manner. The King of Norway has

already...

already given an answer which is not very flattering to our country, and other Scandinavian countries also have shown signs of surprise. This sudden activity of our Department of Foreign Affairs, which usually is not too active, conflicts therefore very much with our international reputation as pioneers in the sphere of international law."

Continuing, VOORUIT expresses the belief that, irrespective of its legal aspects, Dr. Patijn's initiative in this matter is not an act of statesmanship that can be admired, and that he should take warning from the attitude shown by the British at Shanghai.

"There too", this paper continues, "Japanese conquest is an undeniable fact. The international settlement and the French concession form an island in the territory occupied by Japan. But it does not occur to anybody to admit that this would imply a change in the status of these settlements or of their municipal councils. So we must not undertake anything that brings about a change in the status of Abyssinia. Recognition of the Italian Empire is a first move toward the expulsion of Abyssinia from the League of Nations. It may be that the latter's resignation (from the League) will not prove to be unavoidable."

In its second editorial (January 12) VOORUIT expresses satisfaction that the debate on January 11 in general, and Mr. Vorrink's interpellation in particular, have shown that the majority of Dutchmen are reluctant to give their moral support to Dr. Patijn's initiative.

The ALGEMEEN HANDELABBLAD (January 12) in an editorial on the subject of Dr. Patijn's initiative, admits that the Netherlands is faced with a reality, and that respect for justice cannot demand the impossible.

"The reality of today and the sense of justice both must be taken into consideration",

continues...

continues this newspaper. "The question thus arises whether our Government has in fact examined the matter with adequate care. Minister Patijn who, as Minister in Rome, was in a position to study on the spot Italian reaction to sanctions imposed by the League of Nations, as well as to Netherlands participation therein, must have had good reasons for attaching great value to the possible dangers thereof.*** But we must take into consideration other factors as well, factors which are real. In this connection, the policy pursued by Great Britain comes to our mind, a policy which at the present moment does not consider a formal recognition. We do not desire to discuss the motives of Great Britain, or whether the British will accord recognition, either de jure or de facto, subject to political or other concessions on the part of Italy. It is too early to form an opinion in this matter. In any case, it is probable that a move, in which our Government has seemed willing to take the initiative, will not leave London indifferent."

This newspaper concludes by expressing the hope that:

"Our Government has carefully examined the political factors, although this has not been clearly shown by the debates. The report in the morning papers to the effect that the American Government has just suspended commercial negotiations with Italy, because it did not wish to recognize the King of Italy as Emperor of Abyssinia, can hardly strengthen our conviction that the Netherlands Government did carefully examine these factors."

The report here referred to was carried briefly but prominently in all the morning press in the shape of Washington telegrams; there has as yet been no editorial comment thereon.

I enclose herewith the translation of an article
from...

from the NIEUWE ROTTERDAMSCHÉ COURANT of January 10. This article, which draws a parallel between the present case and the situation with respect to Italy in 1861, is of interest as showing that this is not the first time that a Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs has tried to draw a fine-spun distinction between the recognition of a title and the recognition of the territorial possessions described by such title. (See my despatch No. 109 of December 22, 1937).
343

Respectfully yours,

George A. Gordon.
George A. Gordon.

Enclosure.

File No. 701

In quintuplicate.
JWB/mm.

American Legation,
The Hague, Netherlands,
January 11, 1938.

TRANSLATION.

NIEUWE ROTTERDAMSCHÉ COURANT
Evening Edition, January 10, 1938.

Premising that the question of recognizing the Kingdom of Italy in 1861 shows certain differences there was in many respects a striking similarity with the present question, such as the fact that now an originally independent state has been annexed which at that time was the case with a number of states.

During the period 1859-1861 the Kingdom of Sardinia succeeded in annexing a whole series of states which was completed by the annexation of the Kingdom of Naples and Sicilia and the Papal district of Umbria and the Marches in 1861. This caused much opposition on the part of the great powers, but after all they gradually recognized the Kingdom of Italy under Victor Emmanuel II and the NETHERLANDS was one of the last to do so. The Netherlands did this rather on the quiet, and all that was published about it was the withdrawal of the exequatur of the Consuls of those States that had been annexed. It was not even mentioned in the Speech from the Throne.

At the request of a Senator the Minister of Foreign Affairs declared that the King of the Netherlands had decided to recognize the title of Victor Emmanuel as King of Italy, but that this did not mean the recognition of the Kingdom of Italy.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RECOGNITION:- The writer is of the opinion that the questions then and now are as similar as two drops of water.

As regards the form of recognition the Minister then assured the Chamber that by recognizing the title we could avoid creating the impression that we approved the manner in which the Kingdom of Italy was created.

It was argued against this that such recognition really means nothing else than recognition of the fact of possession. The Minister had to admit that recognition of the title of King at the same time meant recognition of the Kingdom of Italy as it then had been created.

The writer concludes that reading the debates of 1861 shows the striking points of resemblance with what is going

on...

on now or may come and that it may be useful for the Government and Parliament to read them.

The NIEUWE ROTTERDAMSCHÉ COURANT of September 28, 1861 wrote:

"By recognizing what happened and actually exists nothing is approved; neither the causes nor the consequences of the existing situation are taken into consideration."

Also in this respect it may be said that: *l'histoire se répète.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

~~PA-2 M. Difesa
U - Mr. Welles~~

January 25, 1938.

Summary of Despatch No. 125, from Embassy at Brussels, dated January 8, 1938.

Subject: Belgium and the Question of the Recognition of the Italian Occupation of Abyssinia.

There are indications that the difficult question of the recognition of the Italian occupation of Abyssinia is becoming a pressing one and that the Belgian Government is actively occupied in seeking a solution thereof. In some quarters the fear is expressed that if the matter of recognition is further delayed the Duce may decide to withdraw his Ambassador to Brussels in the same abrupt and unceremonious manner in which M. Cerruti was recently recalled from Paris. It is generally believed that the King and his Government (including even the Socialist members of the Cabinet) favor a de facto recognition. There is also a feeling that an indefinite prolongation of Belgium's present diplomatic relations with Italy might place her at a disadvantage in her dealings with Italy. However, the

opposition

opposition is so strong that it is possible a precipitate decision in favor of recognition might provoke a Government crisis.

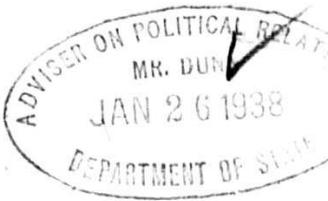
It appears that the unwelcome and unexpected publicity which was given to the Dutch demande to the Oslo Powers in favor of de facto recognition was due to a leak in France. The Haagsche Post political correspondent in Paris is the French Socialist Deputy, Salomon Grumbach, whose position as Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Chamber of Deputies during the Premiership of Blum gave him access to the confidential reports on the subject submitted by French diplomatic representatives abroad. Taking advantage of these reports, he had written an article which appeared in the Haagsche Post of December 18, 1937, revealing in considerable detail the earlier negotiations.

Note. The French Foreign Office is notorious for its leaks and this would appear to be nothing very exceptional.

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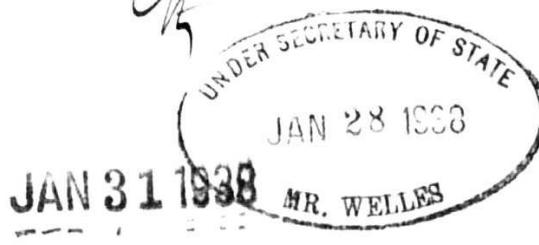
No. 125

DIVISION OF Brussels, January 8, 1938.
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Subject: Belgium and the Question of the
Recognition of the Italian Occupa-
tion of Abyssinia.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE FEB 5 1938 MBG DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS	Menzel	DEPARTMENT OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS JAN 24 1938 SH. H. K. K. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.



Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Embassy's despatch
No. 108 of December 16, 1937, commenting on the present
somewhat irregular state of Belgian diplomatic represen-
tation in Italy owing to this Government's reluctance to
appoint an Ambassador to Rome.

There are indications that the difficult question of
the recognition of the Italian occupation of Abyssinia is
becoming a pressing one and that the Belgian Government
is actively occupied in seeking a solution to the problem.

The

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The Press has devoted considerable attention to the recent Dutch démarche to the Oslo Powers in favor of a de facto recognition; and in particular to the reply which Dr. Patyn, the Dutch Foreign Minister, is reported to have made to a Dutch Communist member of Parliament. Dr. Patyn is quoted as stating that the Dutch Government had asked the states adhering to the Oslo Convention whether they wished to make a joint démarche with the British and French Governments for a de facto recognition of the Italian occupation of Abyssinia; and that the Governments of all of these states had not as yet expressed their views. Also, that when the Oslo states were approached, Italy had not yet renounced her membership in the League of Nations, and the Dutch Government hoped that the recognition of the occupation of Abyssinia might induce Italy to return to Geneva.

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The Belgian Government still finds itself in somewhat of a quandary as to the decision which it must adopt. Any positive step towards recognition which might have been taken in the past year appears to have been frustrated by incidents which served to complicate the situation. On January 8, 1937, M. Léon Degrelle, leader of the Rexist party, broadcasted a speech from an Italian wireless station, over the protest of the Belgian Foreign Office, thus giving the non-Rexist Press an opportunity for bitter criticism of "Italian interference" in Belgian internal affairs. Furthermore, Belgium's strong stand in the past on sanctions has not helped to facilitate negotiations

between

between the two Governments. Indeed, in some quarters the fear is expressed that if the matter of recognition is further delayed, the Duce may decide to withdraw his Ambassador to Brussels in the same abrupt and unceremonious manner in which M. Cerruti was recently recalled from Paris. Finally, Italy's sudden withdrawal from the League undoubtedly deprived the Belgian Government of an opportunity of joining in any proposal involving de facto recognition in exchange for an Italian return to Geneva.

101.65-55

"It is generally believed that the King and his Government (including even the Socialist members of the Cabinet) favor a de facto recognition."

"There is also a feeling that an indefinite prolongation of Belgium's present diplomatic relations with Italy might place her at a disadvantage in her dealings with the latter country." Furthermore, there is a tendency to believe that the fiction of non-recognition is being imposed by France and England upon certain smaller countries in order to cover the loss of face resulting from the failure of the campaign of sanctions.

In so far as Belgium is concerned, the difficulty lies in the attitude of the Socialist party and in particular of its leader, M. Vandervelde, who continues strongly to oppose any suggestion towards recognition. The degree of opposition is, in fact, so strong that it is possible that any too precipitate decision in favor of recognition might, under present circumstances, even provoke a Government crisis.

I learn from a reliable source that in view of the unfavorable reception which Norway and Denmark are reported to have accorded to the Dutch initiative, the Belgian Government may be prepared to consider an approach to Sweden, where a Socialist-Democratic régime prevails and where the initiative of a proposal for recognition would probably meet with far less opposition than in countries where political opinions on the subject are so strongly divided.

It may be of interest to report in this general connection that according to the NATION BELGE of January 4, the preliminary negotiations undertaken with the Oslo Powers by the Dutch Foreign Minister appear to have met with some unwelcome and unexpected publicity. ✓ This paper reproduced a despatch from its Hague correspondent, dated January 3, to the effect that Dr. Patyn's earlier negotiations had been revealed to the Dutch public at considerable length in an article appearing in the HAAGSCHE POST of December 18, 1937, signed "Diplomaticus". The despatch states further that the NIEUWE ROTTERDAMSCHÉ COURANT of December 20, 1937, revealed that "Diplomaticus" was none other than M. Salomon Grumbach, a French Socialist Deputy, who, during M. Léon Blum's Premiership, was Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Chamber of Deputies. M. Grumbach, it appears, is also the political correspondent of the HAAGSCHE POST. His membership in the Commission gave him access to confidential documents at the Quai d'Orsay which included reports from French diplomatic

matic representatives abroad. His contributions with regard to his country's foreign policy were consequently of unusual accuracy, and he did not hesitate to use this information in an attempt to frustrate Dr. Patyn's negotiations. The NATION BELGE concluded that M. Grumbach's activities have served greatly to complicate the question from the Belgian Government's point of view.

Respectfully yours,



q.n.

SPT/VG

Copy to Embassy, Paris
Embassy, Rome
Legation, The Hague

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

NC

This telegram is _____
confidential and must
be closely paraphrased
before being communicated
to anyone. (C)



LONDON DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM Dated Jan. 22, 1938

Rec'd 2:47 p.m.

Secretary of State JAN 26 1938

Washington DEPARTMENT OF STATE

53, Jan. 22, 2 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JAN 25 1938

DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

One. A high official of the Foreign Office stated in
a conversation regarding possibilities Anglo-Italian
rapprochement that he deplored the lost opportunities
last May and September at Geneva to settle entirely
de jure
the recognition of the Italian conquest of Abyssinia.

This question of recognition, he stated, is the real
stumbling block to an Anglo-Italian rapprochement,
Mussolini being sincerely of the opinion that Great
Britain and France are delaying action in the hope that
some event will transpire to snatch Abyssinia away from
Italian possession. As long as Mussolini holds this
erroneous view and recognition is not effected, the Foreign
Office official says that it is virtually useless to attempt
conversations with a view to a general Anglo-Italian
settlement. For this reason British are quite prepared to
recognize the fait accompli in Abyssinia, the discovery of
a formula to effect this purpose without raising new diffi-
culties is the matter now of anxious thought. The British
particularly

JAN 27 1938
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NC #2, #53 from London, Dated January 22, 1938

particularly wish to find a solution which will not arouse the suspicions or wound the susceptibilities of small European States who have followed the British and French lead at GENEVA and who, if the question should be solved without regard to ideals and international obligations so loudly proclaimed during the course of the conflict, might feel that they had been badly let down. The present feeling apparently is that the simple act of recognition on the part of Great Britain alone would not be a real solution from the point of view of larger European issues and that they are studying and hoping to find solution through the machinery at GENEVA.

Two. With reference to possible reform of the League and the chances of the return of Germany and Italy, I gather that the British have in mind a development which envisages Italy and Germany being invited to join with other interested states in studying the possibilities of constructing a new League. In this way Germany and Italy would have an equal share with the other powers in formulating the basic principles of the new organization. The official considers it would be swiftest through concessions, to effect the return of Germany and Italy to the League in its present form. Just how far the study and consideration of this idea have gone he did not make clear but merely indicated their present general line of thought.

JOHNSON

NPL
RGD

Central File: Decimal File 865D.01, Internal Affairs Of States, Italian East Africa, Government. Mandates, Recognition., June 12, 1937 - November 15, 1939. June 12, 1937 - November 15, 1939. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, <link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109729978%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC>. Accessed 18 June 2025.